

# Joey the Rascal



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(after Raul Jimenez and Yolanda Aguilar)  
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Joey was ten years old and he lived in a bad area on the edge of a big city. He was very famous where he lived because he was a bully and the toughest boy around. Joey was always fighting with the other children; he had no friends and was the terror of the neighborhood.

He disobeyed his mother and other people most of the

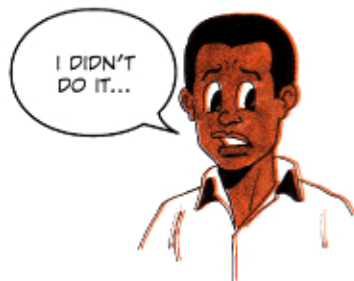
time. His father had been killed in a military conflict when Joey was just two years old. Joey often felt lonely and sad because he seldom saw his mother since she had to work outside the home in order to support the family. He had brothers, but they were married and did not live there anymore.



He would steal whenever he had the chance...



Joey used bad words...



He told lies...

At school, Joey made low grades and no one wanted to play with him or be near him. He ate his lunch all alone every day.

One day, a new girl came to school. She was very pretty and her name was Mary. When Joey saw her,



he thought, "What a pretty girl! I wish she would be my friend." Mary was very different from the other kids. She was loving, kind—she was always singing and happy. She was obedient, respectful, and she made good grades too.



One time, Joey got close to where Mary was and heard her singing, "Jesus loves me, this I know." Joey was surprised and he asked Mary, "Where is Jesus? I don't see him." Mary looked at Joey and she smiled and said, "Jesus is in my heart. I asked Him to come in and He did. Jesus is my best friend, and He always makes me happy."

Joey felt very sad and asked Mary, "Do you think that Jesus loves me too? No one loves me."

Mary answered, "Of

course, Jesus loves you! Jesus died on the Cross to save you and so that you would be happy. He wants to forgive all the bad things you've done. Jesus is alive—He did not stay in the grave! He rose again and He wants to come into your heart and change you."

Joey said, "But I am so bad!"



"That doesn't matter," Mary replied. "Jesus can change you and make you a good boy. Ask Him to forgive you for all the bad things you have done, and ask Him to come into your heart."

"I don't know how to do it," he said. "God would never hear me."

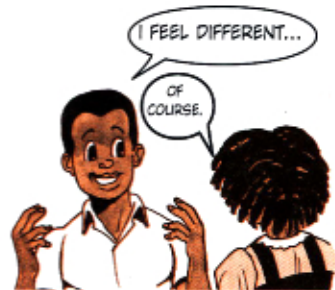
Mary said to him, "Jesus will always hear you if you are sincere and tell Him the truth."

"Help me, Mary!" Joey said. "I want to be different! I want to be happy like you."

Mary told him, "Repeat this prayer after me, 'Lord Jesus, I ask You to forgive all the bad things I have done and wash me with Your blood. Jesus, come into my heart, save me, change me and make me happy.'"



Joey repeated the prayer. When he finished, he had a big smile on his face..."I feel different—I feel happy!"



Joey shouted.

"Of course," said Mary, "when Jesus came into your heart, He changed you and now you can be happy."

From that day on, Joey was a different boy. He



did not steal anymore, he stopped saying bad words and he obeyed his mother. His mother and everyone at school and in his neighborhood could see that Joey had been changed.

Joey told everyone what Jesus had done in his life and he invited them to ask Jesus to come into their hearts. At school, Joey and Mary would get together with other children to sing and to praise God.

Dear friend, you too can be happy. Ask the Lord Jesus Christ to forgive your sins and invite Him to come into your heart to save you, change you and to make you happy. Repeat this prayer with me, "Lord Jesus, I ask You to forgive me for the bad things that I have done. Wash my sins away with Your blood. Come into my heart and save me, change me and make me happy. Amen."

If you told the truth to Jesus, He came into your heart and saved you; you will see the change He has begun to make in your life.

Read the Bible every day; start with the New Testament—God talks to you when you read the Bible.

Always pray and talk with God. When you pray to God,

you talk to Him and He talks to you. He is always with you. Go to church to worship God, to learn more of His Word, and to have fellowship with other Christians like you.

Obey everything the Lord tells you in His Word. Listen to other Christians who will counsel you and explain the Word of God to you. Tell your friends and family what Jesus has done in your life and invite them to ask Jesus to come into their hearts, to forgive them, to change them, and to make them happy.



YOU CAN BE  
HAPPY TOO.