

# Joey the Rascal



By Otto J. De La Torre  
Illustrations by Eric Jansen  
(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

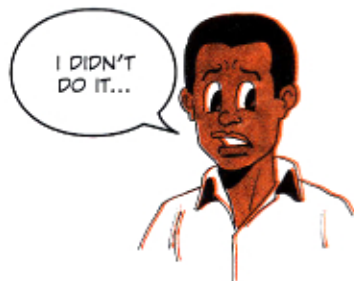
time. His father had been killed in a military conflict when Joey was just two years old. Joey often felt lonely and sad because he seldom saw his mother since she had to work outside the home in order to support the family. He had brothers, but they were married and did not live there anymore.



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."

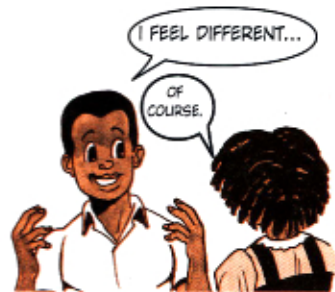
Mary said to him, "Jesus will always hear you if you are sincere and tell Him the truth."

"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.

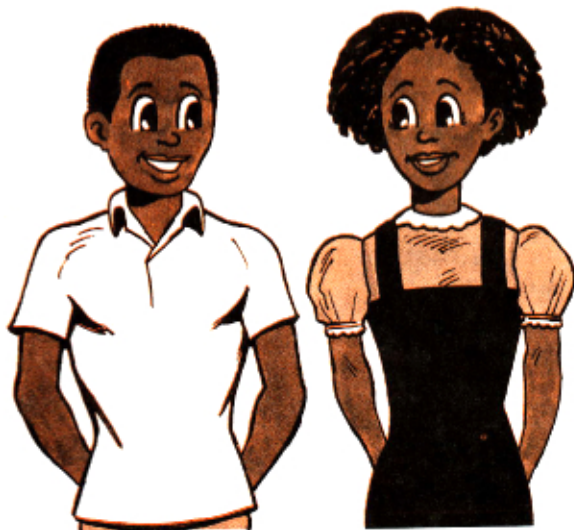
Obey everything the Lord tells you in His Word. Listen to other Christians who will counsel you and explain the Word of God to you. Tell your friends and family what Jesus has done in your life and invite them to ask Jesus to come into their hearts, to forgive them, to change them, and to make them happy.



YOU CAN BE  
HAPPY TOO.

# Joey and Mary

By Otto J. De La Torre  
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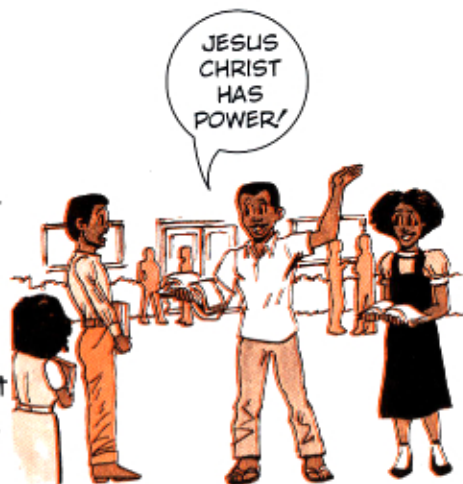
All the people who knew Joey saw the big change that had happened in his life after he accepted

Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. Joey did not lie or steal or say bad words anymore. Every day, he read the Bible with Mary.

They also prayed together and asked the Lord to help them to be good and obedient. They asked God to bless them so that others would accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.



At school, Joey and Mary got together with other kids to pray and study the Bible. They would always use every opportunity to tell others what Jesus had done in their lives.

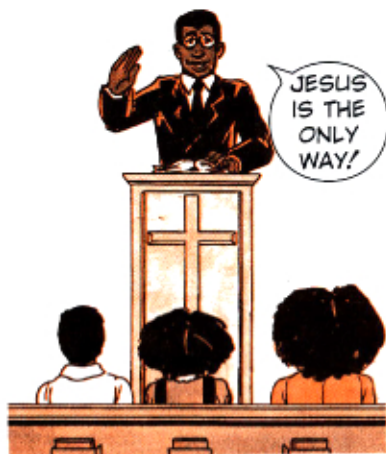


One day, Joey took Mary home to meet his mother. Her name was Mama Sally.



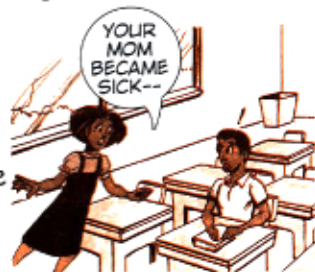
Joey and Mary shared God's Word with Mama Sally, and they explained to her how she could also accept Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior.

Joey and Mary helped Mama Sally pray the following prayer: "Dear Lord Jesus, I confess my sins to You--cleanse me with Your blood, come into my heart and save me. Amen."



A great change took place in Mama Sally; she began to pray and to read the Bible. Mama Sally started to go to the same church Joey and Mary attended to praise God and learn more about His Word.

Joey and Mary kept on serving the Lord and they became the two model students. One day, Joey was sitting down reading at school when Mary came over and said to him, "Joey, they just told me that your Mom became sick and the ambulance took her to the Emergency Room!"

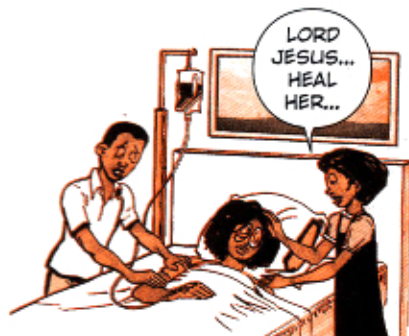
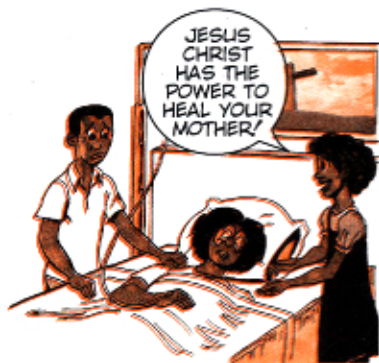




Joey and Mary ran to the hospital. Mama Sally was unconscious; after many exams, the doctors discovered that she had a brain tumor. Now Joey realized why his Mom

suffered from those terrible headaches. Joey was really upset, seeing his mother in such a condition.

Mary said to Joey, "Don't worry—Jesus Christ has the power to heal your mother! I was crippled and the Lord healed me! God promises in His Word that He will heal all our diseases. Let's pray for her."



today and forever—heal her right now according to the promises found in your Word. Amen."

After a few minutes, Mama Sally opened her eyes and, slowly and carefully, she sat up. She said, "Something strange just happened to me—I feel great!"







Joey shouted, "Mom, God did a miracle! We asked Him...and the Lord healed you!" That same day, Mama Sally left the hospital and she told everyone about the miracle the

Lord had done in her life. Joey and Mary also told everyone about Mama Sally's healing. From that day on, they started to pray for other people who were sick.

Dear friend, if you are ill, Jesus Christ wants to heal you. Repeat the following prayer: "Lord Jesus, You promised in Your Word that You took upon Yourself all my illnesses and that You suffered all my pains. I believe in Your promises and I ask You to heal me right now. By faith, I receive my healing, in Jesus' name. Thank You, Lord." If you have not accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you should do it right now. Say the same prayer Joey's mother did..."Dear Lord Jesus, I confess my sins to You—cleanse me with Your blood, come into my heart and save me. Amen." If you have accepted Jesus as your Savior, you too can pray for the sick and you will see how God can use you too!

