

Do Great Things for God

# Joni Eareckson Tada



*The Girl Who Learned to Follow God in a Wheelchair*

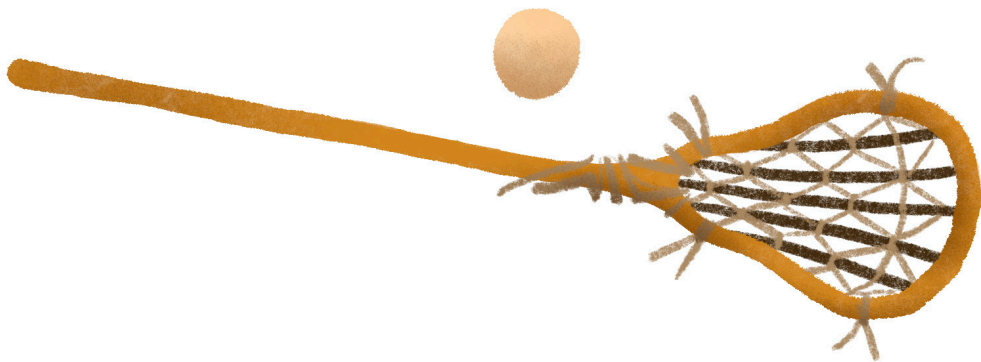
Kristyn Getty

Illustrated by Hsulynn Pang



Joni was born the youngest of four sisters in Baltimore, USA. She was called Joni after her dad, John. He had been hoping for a boy!



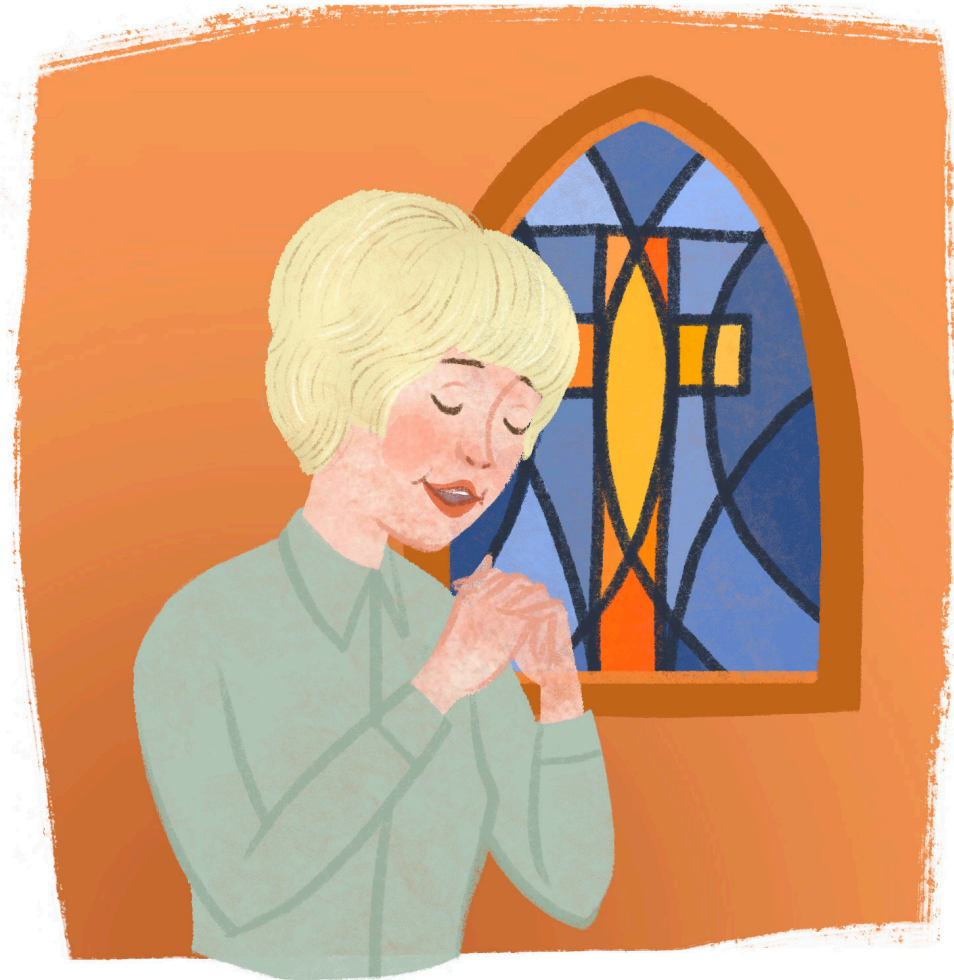


Joni had sparkling blue eyes, a clever mind,  
and lots of energy. She loved to ride horses...  
to play lacrosse... and to go on adventures.

Joni grew up going to church and singing hymns with her family. But even though she knew about Jesus, she did not know him as her friend.

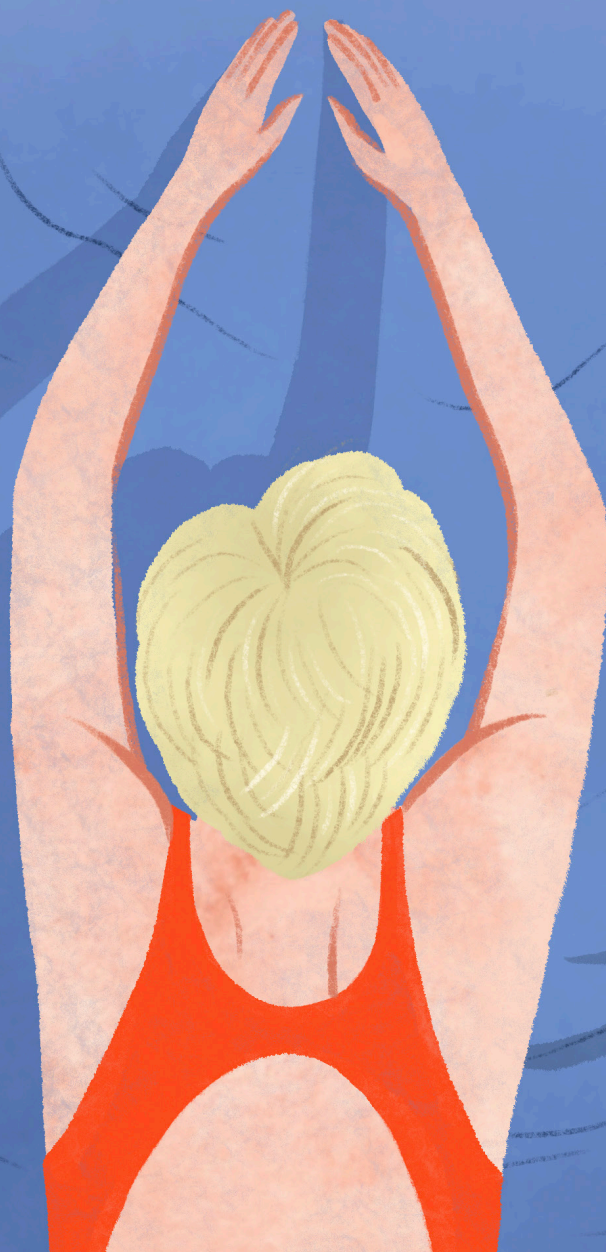


When she was 15, Joni went to a church camp. There, she understood Jesus Christ's great love and forgiveness and how much she needed him.

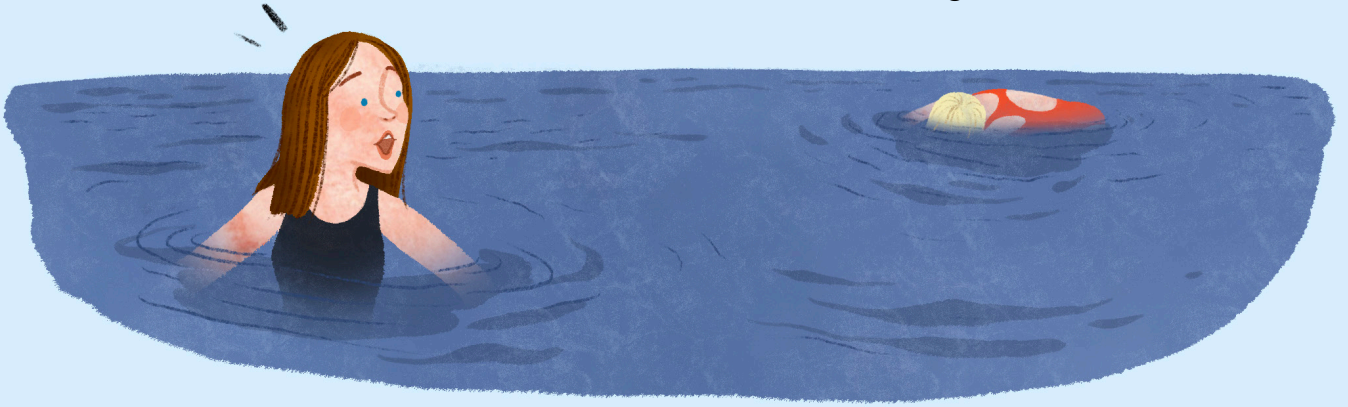


She prayed to God, "Instead of doing things my way, I want to follow Christ's way." She wondered where his way would take her.

When Joni was 17, one day she went swimming in a bay with her sister. She loved swimming! She dived off a float, into the water. But the water was too shallow for diving. Joni's head hit the bottom – and suddenly she could not move.



Her sister saw Joni floating in the water.



She pulled her out and called to someone to phone for an ambulance.

In the hospital, Joni and her family heard some very bad news. Joni's neck was broken. Her hands would never work properly again, and her legs would never work at all. She would have to stay in the hospital for a long time.







In a moment, all her life had changed. She felt afraid and had many questions. What would she do now? Who would take care of her?