

“*C is for Christian* is both a tool and a treasure for anyone—child or adult—who wants to follow Christ. Alistair Begg’s clear teaching and insightful questions help readers respond personally to God’s truth, bringing theology within the reach of young and old alike. I strongly recommend this beautiful book for every home library.”

Jani Ortlund, Renewal Ministries; Author, *Help! I’m Married to My Pastor*

“When children think about the marks of a Christian, they may first think of things Christians do. But it’s also essential for us to teach kids who Christians *are*. That’s exactly what Dr. Begg does in *C Is for Christian*. This beautifully illustrated alphabet catechism will help the next generation learn and remember the Bible’s many vivid depictions of Christian identity.”

Jared Kennedy, Editor, The Gospel Coalition; Author, *The Beginner’s Gospel Story Bible*

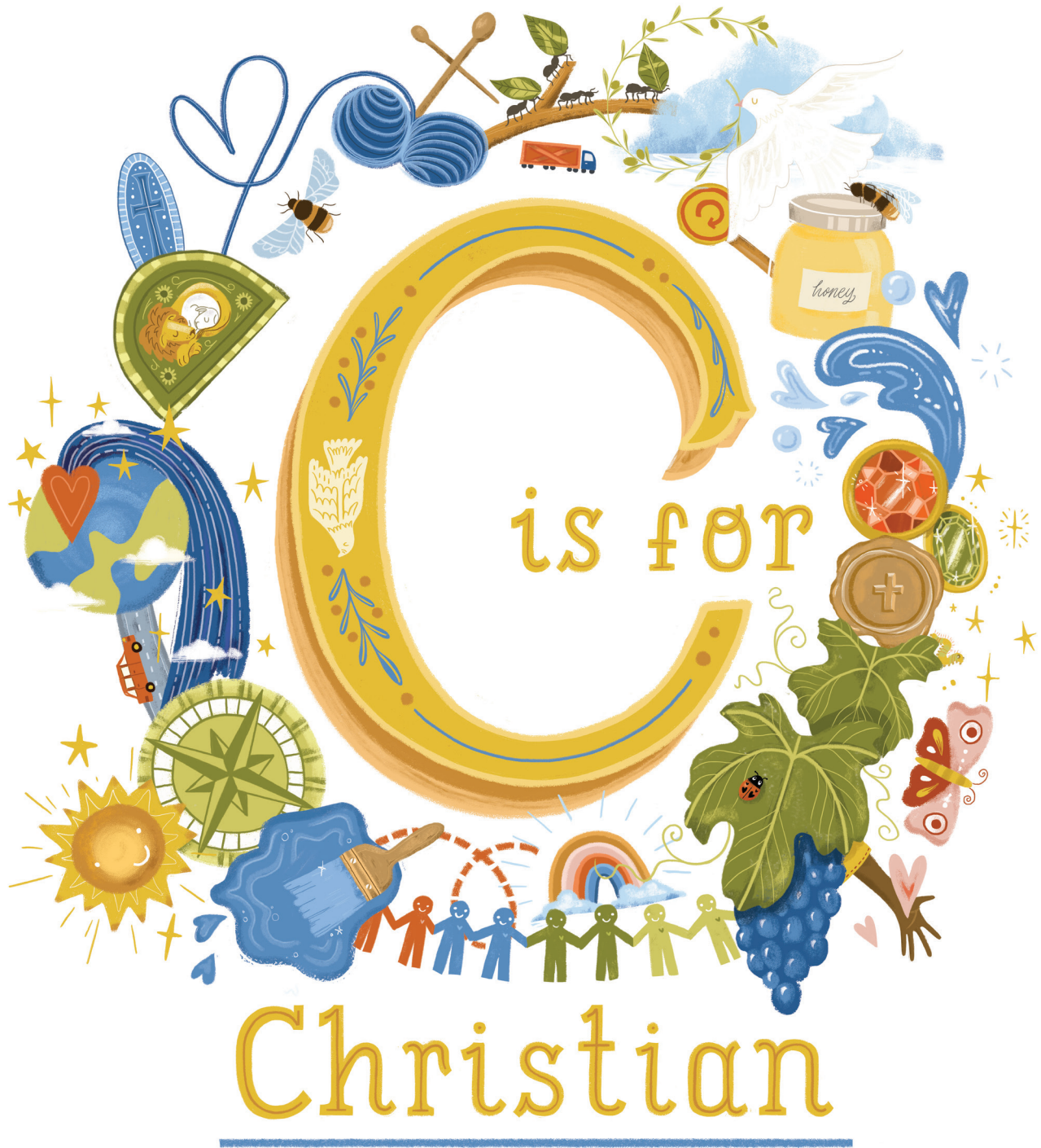
“As a grandfather, I am always on the hunt for gospel-rich books to read to my grandchildren. *C is for Christian* is a book I’ll be reading to my grandkids. With simple everyday-life illustrations to help children comprehend big ideas, Alistair Begg explains what it means to be a Christian. Every family will want to add this book to their library.”

Marty Machowski, Family Pastor; Author, *The Ology*, *WonderFull*, and *The Treasure*

“*C is for Christian* is a remarkable resource. It beautifully simplifies the essence of our faith into bite-sized, digestible pieces that resonate well with young hearts. The combination of captivating illustrations, thoughtful questions, and prayers in each segment not only delights young readers visually but also stirs their curiosity and fosters impactful family conversations about God’s love and faith’s blessings. It’s a perfect resource for parents looking to lay a solid spiritual foundation in their children’s hearts.”

Portia Collins, Bible Teacher; Host, *Grounded* podcast at Revive Our Hearts; Founder, She Shall Be Called

Alistair Begg



An A to Z Treasury of Who We Are in Christ

ILLUSTRATED BY Emma Skerratt

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What words would you use to describe what a squirrel is and what a squirrel is like?

What words would you use to tell me about your best friend?

I imagine you used quite a few different words to answer those questions. No one word can sum up what a squirrel is like. No single word can describe your best friend to me. The words “squirrel” and “best friend” need a whole list of other words to explain them.

It’s the same with the word “Christian.” Being a Christian is the most wonderful, exciting, life-changing thing anyone can be. But... what is a Christian? What words can we use to describe what it means to call yourself a Christian?

In this book, you’ll find 26 words that complete this sentence: A Christian is...

To help you remember them, they each start with a different letter of the alphabet. Think of this as an A to Z of what a Christian is. As you’ll discover, there’s even one for “C” that isn’t “Christian”! You can read through this book in any order, but I imagine most people will start at A and work through to Z, and then return to their favorites...

I hope you enjoy your time in this book. I hope that, as you read, you’ll become more and more amazed by all that God has done and is doing for His people—for every Christian, however young or old. And I pray that you’ll want to become, or continue to be, a Christian yourself.

With love,





Adopted

“You have received the Spirit of adoption as sons,
by whom we cry, ‘Abba, Father!’”

Romans 8:15

When someone is adopted, what happens to them?

Here's a happy story about a boy finding a new family. Imagine this boy is called Simeon. He is an orphan—he doesn't have parents. He lives in an orphanage. He doesn't have a home of his own or a family of his own. He has very few clothes and hardly any toys.

Then imagine that one day, a kind man called Mr. Billingsgate visits the orphanage. He sees Simeon, and he chooses to love him. He makes Simeon a member of his family—to live in his house and get his own clothes and toys. Simeon gets to be called “Simeon Billingsgate” to show he's joined this new family, and he gets to call Mr. Billingsgate “Father.”

Simeon has been adopted.

You might know some children who have been adopted. You might have been adopted yourself. If so, your parents chose to make you part of their family, to love you, and to share what they have with you.

One of the ways the Bible describes people who trust in Jesus as their King and Savior is “adopted.” God is kind, and He chooses to love us and make us a member of His family—to make us His son or daughter. He gives us what we need. One day, we will live in His house in heaven. We have countless brothers and sisters—everyone else who trusts Jesus is part of this family. Best of all, we get to call God “Father” and know that He is always loving us and looking after us.

Now, imagine that Simeon has settled happily into his new family. What might he want to say to Mr. Billingsgate? I guess he might want to say, “Thank you”!

And how might Simeon feel about being in his new family? I guess he'd feel joyful and loved.

If you trust Jesus, God has adopted you into His wonderful family. Wow! You'll want to say, “Thank you.” And you can feel joyful and loved.



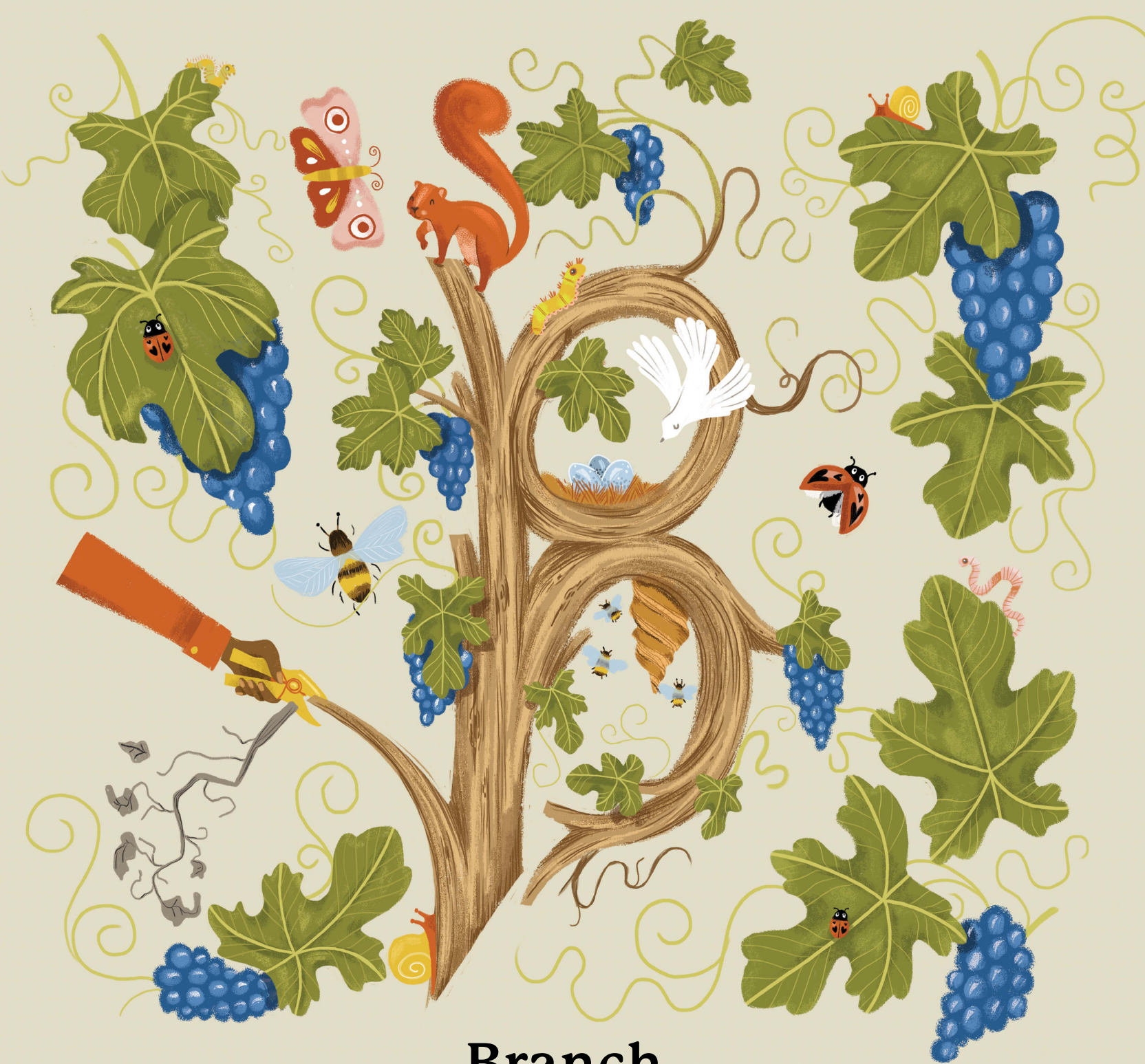
is for Adopted.

What is great about being adopted by God?

Is there something you feel sad or worried about? What difference will it make to remember that, if you love Jesus, God has adopted you?

Dear Father, thank You that anyone who trusts in Jesus is Your adopted child, and can call You Father. Thank You that You are kind and generous. Thank You that You love and look after all Your children, all the time. Please keep me trusting Jesus, and please keep reminding me how great it is to be Your adopted child. Amen.





Branch

“I am the vine; you are the branches.”

John 15:5



What happens to a branch if it is chopped off its tree?

Vines are plants with lots of branches. And grapes grow on the branches. In this verse, Jesus is saying that anyone who loves and trusts in Him is joined to Him like a branch is joined to a vine.

When a branch is joined to a vine, all the goodness in the vine flows to the branch. That's what makes the branches alive. When we love Jesus, all of His goodness—His life and His power—flows into us, and we enjoy life with him now and forever.

You can tell a branch is joined to a vine by the fruit it grows. These branches don't grow apples, because they're not part of an apple tree. They don't grow avocados, because they're not part of an avocado tree. They grow grapes, because they're part of a grapevine!

People who trust Jesus grow fruit too. Not apples or avocados or grapes. They grow the fruit of being like Jesus—loving, joyful, peaceful, patient, kind, good, loyal, gentle, and self-controlled.

So Christians are branches. We stay connected to Jesus, the vine, by loving and trusting Him. And then we have life forever, and we grow more and more like Jesus.



B is for Branch.

What is good about being a branch with Jesus as our vine?

Can you think of "fruit" that Jesus is growing in you because you are His branch, loving and trusting Him?

Dear Lord Jesus, thank You that we can be connected to You like a branch, just by loving and trusting in You. Thank You that You give us life. Thank You that You grow fruit in us by Your Spirit. Please work in us so we become more and more like You. Amen.





Citizen

“Our citizenship is in heaven.”

Philippians 3:20



Which country are you a citizen of?

Everyone is a citizen of a country. It's the place where they most belong. If they have a passport, it's the country that gave them that passport. And they speak like and behave like people from that country speak and behave.

So if you are an American citizen, then you belong to America, and you speak like an American and behave like an American—even if you travel outside America, you are still an American citizen. If you are French, then you belong to France, and you speak French and behave like a French person—even if you travel outside France, you are still a French citizen.

Christians are citizens of heaven. This means the place where we most belong is not here, where we live at the moment. It's heaven, with Jesus. So this also means that the place where we will be most happy living is not here but heaven, with Jesus. At the moment we do not live in heaven—we are in this world. But if we are followers of Jesus, we are citizens of heaven. Yes, we are still American or French or British or Brazilian citizens... but most important of all, we are citizens of heaven.

This will make a difference to how we speak and how we behave. We will speak kind words like Jesus, and we will act like Jesus. This will also make a difference to how we think about this world. This world is not our real home. Heaven is—and heaven is much better than anything here. That's where we belong, and that's where we are heading. How exciting!



is for Citizen.

Can you think of things that are better about heaven than this world?

Where is a Christian's real home? How does that make you feel?

Dear Lord Jesus, thank You that You have given us a home in heaven, where everything is perfect and we can live with You. Please help us to remember that we belong there, not in this world. Please make us excited about living with You as citizens of heaven forever. Amen.





Dwelled-in

“That Christ may dwell in your hearts
through faith.”
Ephesians 3:17

What things in your house show that your family lives there?

Imagine walking past a house every week. It's broken down. There are weeds growing up its walls. The curtains are hanging off their poles, and some of the windows are broken.

Then one day, as you walk past, you notice a huge difference. The weeds have been cleared. The windows have been replaced, and there are new curtains. It looks new and welcoming.

What has happened? The house has a new owner, who has been working to make this house their home. How wonderful for that house to have an owner who cares for it!

A Christian is a person in whose heart Jesus lives. Yes, He dwells in heaven—but, by His Spirit, He also dwells in His people. If you have faith in Jesus, then His home address is... your heart! He's not just a guest, like someone staying for a week and then going to live somewhere else. He's moved in to stay. That means that wherever you go, Jesus is with you. Wherever you are, you are not alone.

Having Jesus living in us makes a huge difference. Jesus changes people He dwells in. We see this in what happened to Zacchaeus, the little man who climbed a tree because he wanted to see Jesus passing through his town (Luke 19:1-10). When Jesus reached the tree, He told Zacchaeus that He was going to stay in Zacchaeus' house. And this changed Zacchaeus. Before, he had loved money. He had stolen and cheated to get more money. Now that Jesus was in his house, he loved Jesus. So he wanted to give his money away to help and care for others.

When Jesus dwells in someone, He works in them through His Spirit to make them more and more like Him. They become more kind, generous, joyful, and thoughtful. How wonderful to have Jesus dwelling in us, caring for us and changing us!



D is for Dwelled-in.

Where in this world does Jesus live?

Can you think of ways Jesus is changing you to make you more like him?

Dear Lord Jesus, thank You that You dwell in Your people, by Your Spirit. I would like to invite You to live in me. Please make me a person who is more and more a good home for You to live in. Please care for me and change me. Amen.



Example

“Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.”

1 Timothy 4:12

*Do you have any toy cars or remote-control cars?
How are they like a real car?*

An example is something that shows you what something else is like. When you look at a toy car, you can see what a real car is like—it has the same shape, and it has wheels, and it moves.

A Christian is someone who can help other people see what Jesus is like. They set an example that shows others what Jesus is like. And anyone can do this, even people who are youthful—even young children, like you.

Our verse gives us five ways we can set an example that shows people what Jesus is like:

1. By the way that you *spea*k. When you say things that are kind and true and helpful, you are showing what Jesus is like.
2. By your *conduct*—which means by the way you behave. When you act in ways that obey God, you are showing what Jesus is like.
3. By your *love*. When you love people who have been unkind to you, you are showing what Jesus is like.
4. By your *faith*. When you trust God to be in charge of your life, and when you pray because you know He is in charge and you trust Him, you are showing what Jesus is like.
5. By your *purity*—which means by avoiding sin. When you say no to doing something that is wrong, you are showing what Jesus is like.

It is not easy to live as an example of what Jesus is like! So Jesus gives us His Holy Spirit to help us live in this way.



E is for **Example**.

How old do you need to be to set an example of what Jesus is like?

How can you be a good example of what Jesus is like in your day today?

Dear Lord Jesus, thank You that I can show other people what You are like. I don't always find this easy, so please work in me by Your Spirit so that I will become more like You in what I say, what I do, how I love people, how I trust God, and how I say no to what is wrong. Amen.





Forgiven

“Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.”

Psalm 32:1

*When you know you've done something wrong, how do you feel?
What do you do about it?*

I imagine you are wearing a brand new, clean white top, and your mom tells you not to get anything on it. But you decide to play with paint, and you get some down the front.

You try to wipe it off. But paint stains.

You try to hide it. But it's all down the front.

You wonder if maybe your mom will only notice the clean parts of the top. But the paint is still there, on the front.

You can't clean your top, and you can't hide the stain. What you need is a new top—but you don't have one.

But then your brother or sister comes in. They offer to take your dirty top and give you their clean one.

Wow!

Our sin—the ways we don't love God and don't live with him as our King—is like a stain. We can't wipe it away—it is still there. We can't hide it—it is still there. Even the good things we have done can't cover it up. Who can help us?

Jesus can.

On the cross, Jesus took our sins, or transgressions, onto Himself. (That is, He took the sins of everyone who asks Him for forgiveness.) And He gave us His own totally clean perfection instead. It's as if He took our stained top and gave us His clean one. Jesus was punished instead of us. And we are forgiven!

Wow!

This is why the "one whose transgression is forgiven" is "blessed." Blessed means very happy. Our sin has been taken by Jesus and forgiven by God. We don't need to try to hide it or make up for it. We're forgiven. What a happy way to live!



F is for **Forgiven**.

What is wonderful about knowing that when we ask God to forgive us, He will?

Think about what Jesus did so that you can be forgiven. How does that make you feel? What does it make you want to say to Jesus?

Dear Father, thank You that I don't need to try to clean up my sin, or hide it, or make up for it. Thank You that You are always ready to forgive me when I am truly sorry. Thank You, Lord Jesus, that You died so that I can be forgiven and can enjoy life with You forever. Amen.