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Dear Diary

Key References: 2 Corinthians 5:17; Colossians 2:6, 7; James 2:14-17; *Steps to Christ*, chap. 7, pp. 57-65; *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 10, pp. 176-179; 196-200; Our Beliefs nos. 23, 22, 10.



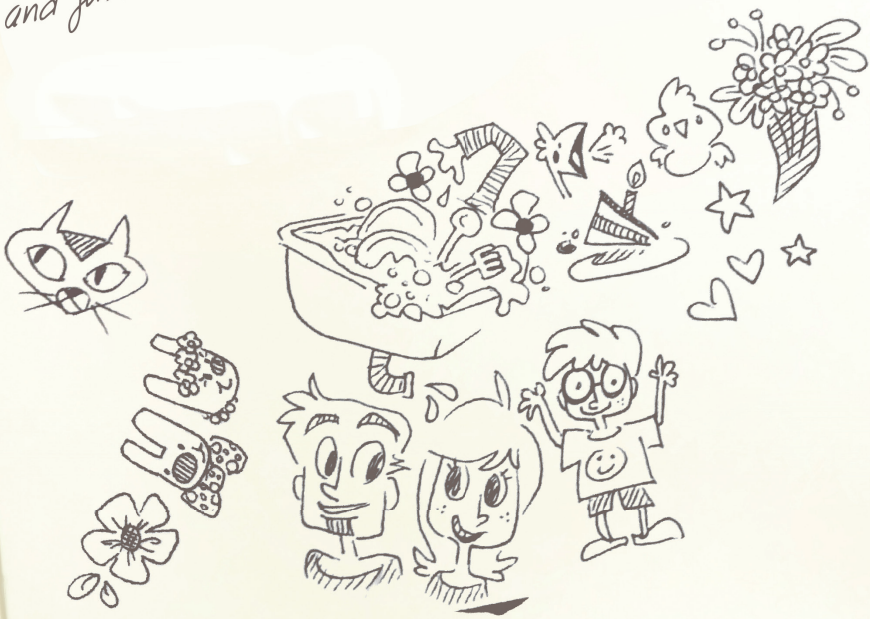







Dear Diary,

Tomorrow is the Big Day. I can't really believe that Marcia is really, truly, absolutely going to get married tomorrow! I mean, how can my sister (who has been my sister living in the same house as me ALL OF MY LIFE) get married tomorrow and just leave?



Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 89.

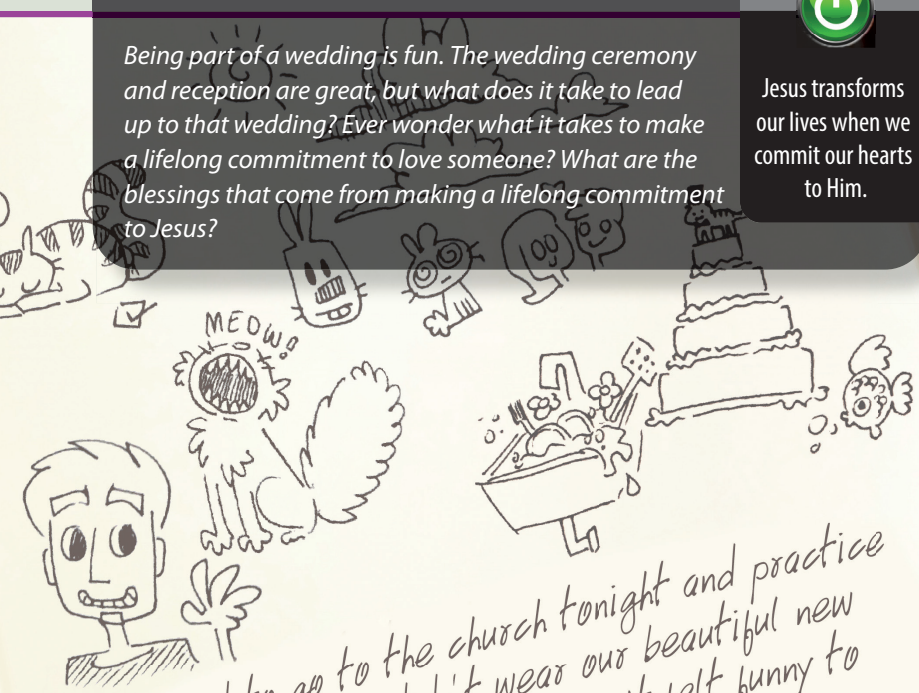
powertext

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Being part of a wedding is fun. The wedding ceremony and reception are great, but what does it take to lead up to that wedding? Ever wonder what it takes to make a lifelong commitment to love someone? What are the blessings that come from making a lifelong commitment to Jesus?

powerpoint

Jesus transforms our lives when we commit our hearts to Him.



We had to go to the church tonight and practice the wedding. We didn't wear our beautiful new dresses just regular clothes. It felt funny to walk down the aisle and go up on the platform. I had to practice standing up there on a piece of masking tape that marks My Spot. Tomorrow when I do it, the church will be packed full of people looking at me. I hope I don't trip or do something awful!

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Sunday

READ Read Colossians 2:6, 7 and this week's story, "Dear Diary."

REVIEW Review the power text, 2 Corinthians 5:17.

WRITE In your Bible study journal, write about when you made your commitment to Jesus. Or if you haven't yet, perhaps you want to take that step today.

PRAY Tell Jesus that you want to renew your commitment to Him (or make a new one).

Monday

READ Read James 2:14.

WRITE In your Bible study journal or diary, write how you have become a "new creation" since you've made a commitment to God.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to continually make you into the person He wants you to be.

Tuesday

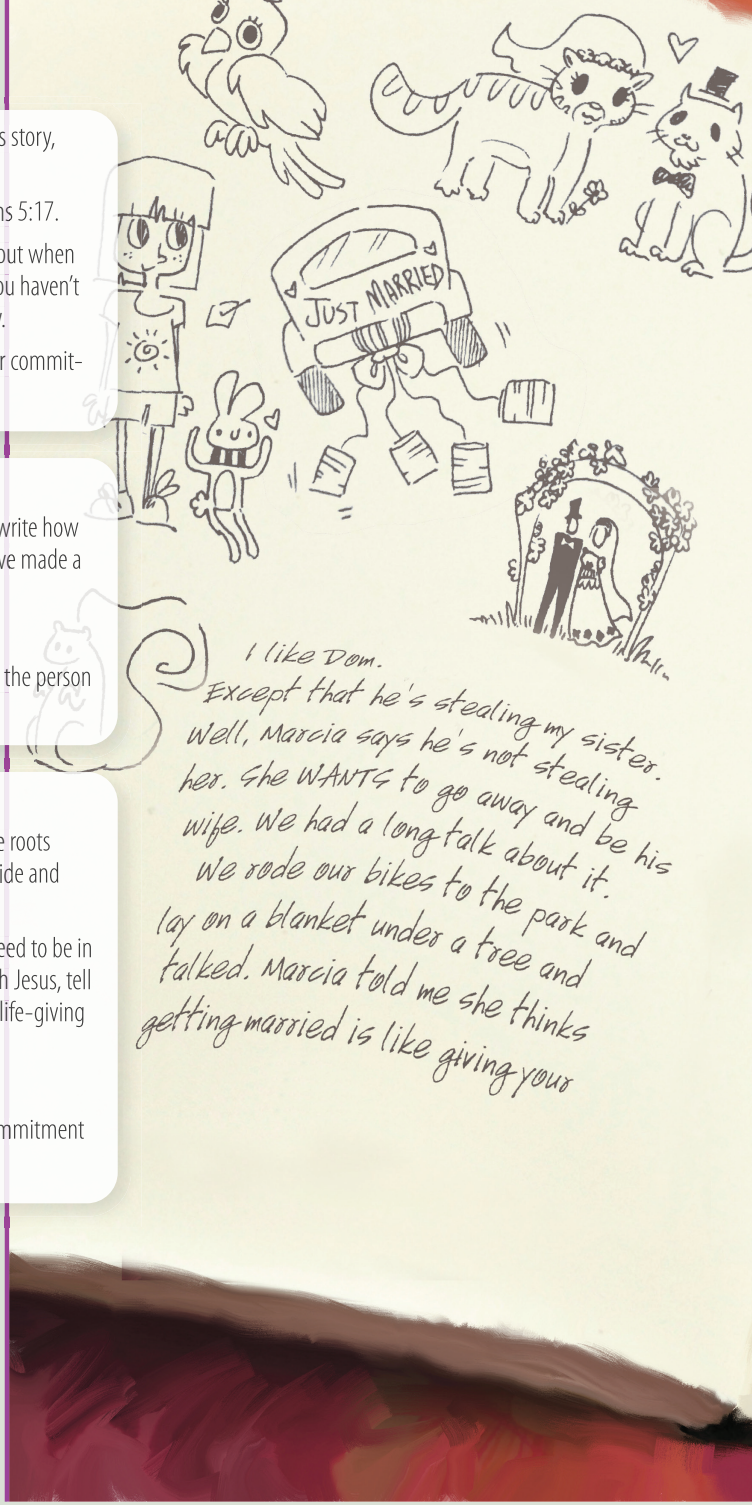
READ Read James 2:15, 16.

WALK Take a walk and notice the size of tree roots protruding from the ground. Imagine how wide and deep the roots are.

THINK How wide and deep do your roots need to be in Jesus? As you spend time in communion with Jesus, tell Him of your need for Him to fill you with His life-giving power.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask Jesus to daily strengthen your commitment to Him.





heart to Jesus. She said that when you get married, everything is different. She said that when you get married, you belong to your husband and he belongs to you. Just like when you love Jesus, you belong to Him, and He belongs to you.

Marcia said when you get married, you do stuff that your husband or wife likes because you want to make them happy. Like learning to cook their favorite food. And listening to their favorite music. And even doing the laundry and dishes and other stuff that might not be fun. Dom even opens the car door for Marcia to get in even though she is perfectly able to do it all by herself. Marcia likes that.

She said it's just like when we do some things because we know that's what Jesus wants us to do. It might be something we really don't WANT to do, but we do it anyway because we want to make Him happy.

And she said Jesus loves to make us happy too. He gives us blessings all the time. Marcia said Dom is a blessing from Jesus.

Wednesday

READ Read James 2:17.

THINK How are you putting action into your faith? What is the evidence to others that you have made a commitment to God?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to show you ways to put your faith into action.

Thursday

READ Read Romans 12:1.

WRITE Write down things to which you have committed (i.e., exercising, practicing on a musical instrument, studying, helping at home).

THINK What prevents you from following through with these commitments? How do you feel when you don't? How do you feel when you do? What would your Christian life be like if you didn't make a commitment to God?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to make it evident to others that your life is committed to Him.

Friday

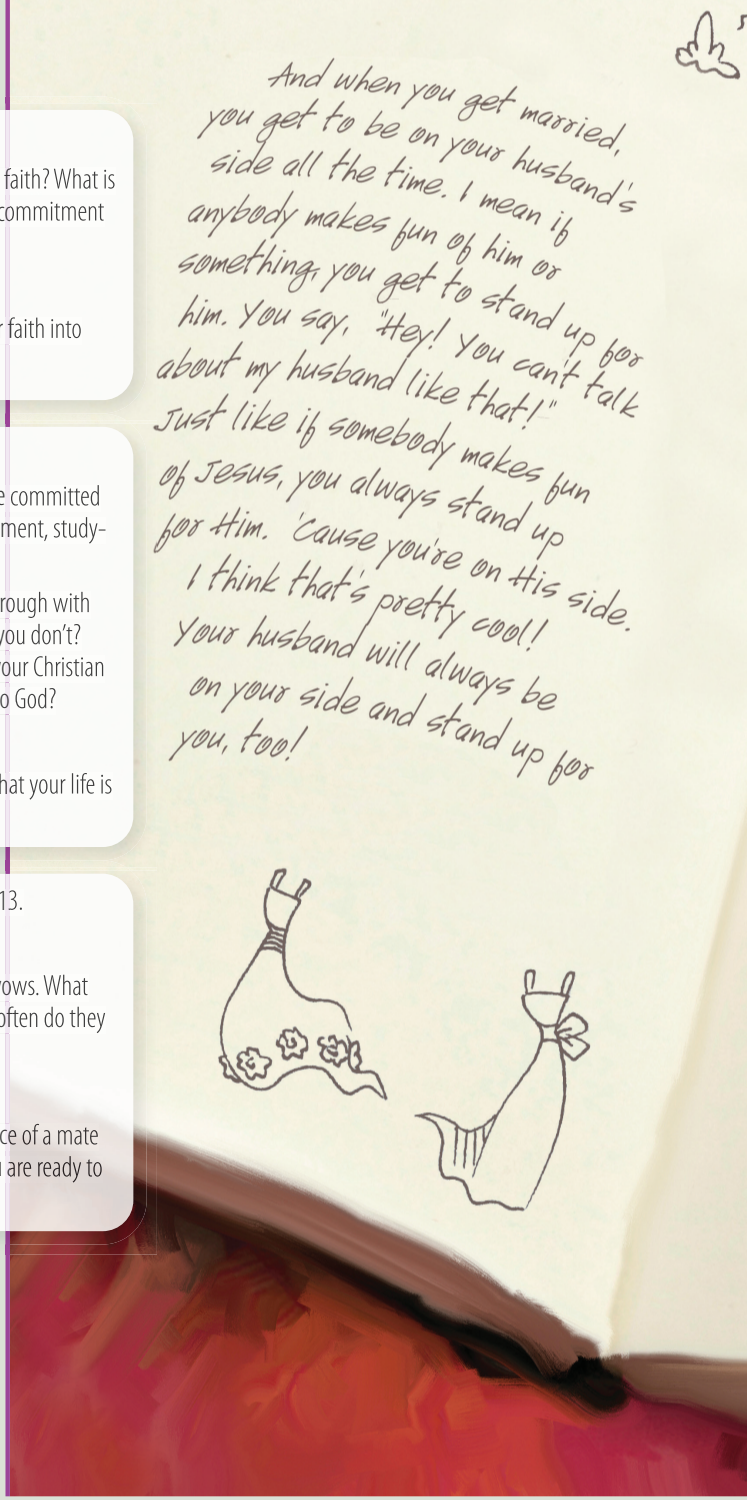
READ Read with your parents 1 Corinthians 13.

LOOK Look at your parents' wedding photos.

ASK Ask your parents about their wedding vows. What did they say? Did they write their own? How often do they think about their wedding vows?

SAY Say the power text from memory.

PRAY Ask God to help you make a wise choice of a mate and a lasting commitment to them when you are ready to marry.



Marcia said that when you get married, you can't do everything anymore that you might think you want to do. She said you have to be unselfish because you love your husband.

(It's too bad she didn't do THAT when she lived with ME!)

I told her that if somebody loved ME like that I would WANT to be unselfish.

And Marcia said the best part is when you get married, you get to stay for the rest of your life with the person that you love best. She said it's exactly like when you give your heart to Jesus, you know that you will get to live with Him forever and ever. And always, ALWAYS, be happy in heaven.





Good night, Diary.

PS: People have to wait until they're older to decide who they want to marry. I'm sure glad I didn't have to wait that long to give my heart to Jesus!

And that's an even more important choice!

