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THE FEROCITY WITH WHICH I LOVE MY SON IS ONLY A SHADOW WHEN COMPARED TO THE VORACIOUS LOVE GOD HAS FOR US.



### Inspire (for parents)

My little darling boy recently turned two. With that milestone has come all of the clichés I'd been warned about. My velvet chair has been scribbled on with red marker; toilet paper has, on more than one occasion, been strewn throughout my house, and I'm convinced that the earth actually does shatter each time he doesn't get his way. Countless times I've stood in the midst of all the chaos that comes with the "terrible twos" and closed my eyes, dreaming to be anywhere else. Michigan, in the winter? Great! Run a marathon? Absolutely. Just get me out of here.

But then, as night falls and we climb into bed to read a story and say our prayers, I am reminded of how powerful and intoxicating parental love is. I feel his tiny wild body settle into my arms, and I bend close to the sweet spot on his neck, just below his ear, where I swear he smells just like heaven. An army couldn't rip me from this boy. As I kneel by his bedside and watch his chest rhythmically rise and fall, see his pink cheeks glowing, watch his eyelids flutter as flashes of dreams race across his mind ...

I understand just a little bit better what God must feel each time He looks at us. At the end of the day, I know that my son is exactly where he belongs ... with me. I don't hold onto the scribbles or the tantrums; it's the moments of simply being near this tiny perfect miracle that I hold onto.

The ferocity with which I love my son is only a shadow when compared to the voracious love God has for us. He yearns to be near His people, to bend His head to us and breathe in the scent of our lives. God created us to be with Him.

by Sarah Carter

### Getting Started

**Scripture:** Genesis 2—3 (Need for a Redeemer)  
**Main Point:** God Created Us to Be with Him

This resource is designed to allow your family to have time in God's Word **before your children attend church**. Because God's plan is for parents to be the primary spiritual nurturers of their children's faith, we know that as you grow spiritually, your children will grow spiritually as well.

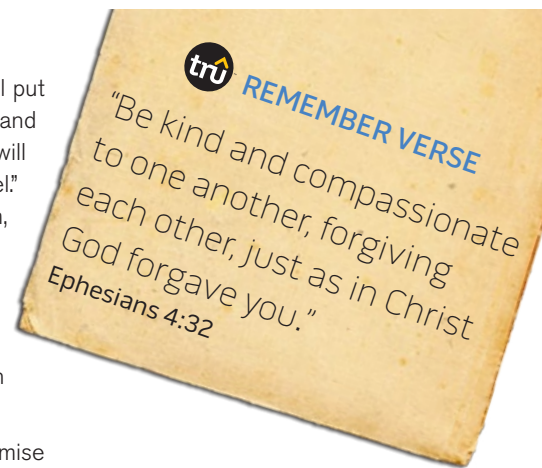
### Equip (for parents)

In Genesis 3:15, God said to Satan: "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head and you will strike his heel." These words are called the protevangelium, "the first gospel" because they were God's first promise that He would send the Redeemer—Christ. These words were God's proclamation that the Remedy for the realities of sin and death was on His way.

Throughout The Big God Story, this promise was a beacon of hope for God's people. God promised—even right after the moment of first separation—He would make a way for His people to be with Him. Galatians 4:4 says, "But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons [and daughters]." We were all born "under law," unable to have a relationship with God because of sin. But Christ humbled Himself to be born as a human (the "offspring" of woman) and die on a cross to destroy the power of sin that separated His people from Him. When Christ died and rose again, He "crushed [Satan's] head." But His physical agony on the cross was how Satan "[struck] his heel" (Genesis 3:15).

Though Christ has already won the victory over death, we are still living in the time before Christ vanquishes evil forever. Even so, we can be assured, as Romans 16:20 says, that the "God of peace will soon crush Satan under [our] feet."

We can have hope that someday God's people will be all together worshipping the victorious Christ.



### Support

(for parents & kids)

Sometime this week, read through the biblical account of Adam and Eve in the garden, found in Genesis 2:15–23. At the end of each section, think of a question that reflects on what you just read, such as, "What command did God give to Adam?" or "How did God create Eve?"

**> JUST FOR FUN**, read this passage outside, sitting on a green grassy lawn, in a tree, or by flowers. After you have read the passage, tell your children when Adam and Eve were with God in the garden, they walked and talked with Him. Explain that Adam and Eve eventually disobeyed God, just like we all do at times. But God still wants to be with us; He wants to walk with us, and talk with us, even when we mess up.

When you are finished, share with your children that what they just heard is a part of The Big God Story in the Bible, and they will hear more about it at church. Close your time by praying and thanking God for loving us and wanting to be with us.