

Notes From

JESUS

for FAMILIES

What Jesus Wants Your Family
to Know

by
Mikal Keefer



This book is for:

From:

On:

I hope your family's friendship with Jesus keeps growing as you get to know him better.



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Notes From Jesus for Families

What Jesus Wants Your Family to Know

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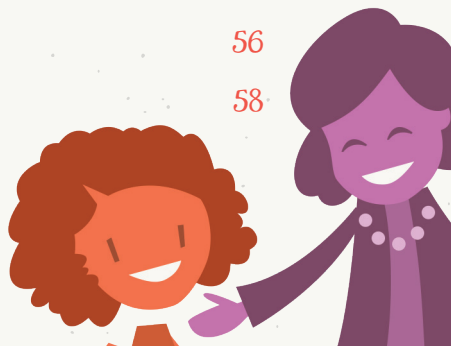
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“BUT TO ALL WHO BELIEVED HIM AND
ACCEPTED HIM, HE GAVE THE
RIGHT TO BECOME CHILDREN
OF GOD.”

(JOHN 1:12)



Hello, Friends!

I love families—including yours! I love them so much that I chose to be born into a family when I came to earth. I know how to sweep, shop, and share with others—all the family stuff.

I want to be your friend—your best friend.
But I also want to be a friend to your family.

I want to be part of your conversations.
To pitch in when you need help. To laugh with you when you're having fun together.

So invite me to be with you all day, every day.
I'll be there!

And here's something fun: I want you to be part of my family, too. For you to love and follow me, and for us to be forever friends.

Will you do that? Will you be part of my family, too?

This little book is filled with notes from me to your family. They're words I've said or helped my Bible friends write or say. They're words for you!

Jesus



i WANT YOU TO KNOW...

▶▶▶▶ I love you!

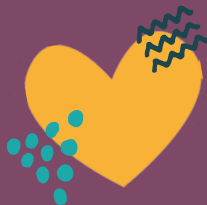
Friends show up for each other. In good times they're there with a high-five and *woo-hoo*!

In hard times they bring hugs and a strong shoulder to lean on. I'm that kind of friend—because I love you. Before you even knew me, I gave myself so we could be friends forever. I'll always love and watch out for you.

And I'm hoping your family members will be that kind of friend to each other. That how I love you is how you'll love each other. That when someone scores the winning goal, there are *woo-hoos* galore. And when someone loses a game, a bike, or a friend, you're there with a huddle of hugs.

Because you're not just family. You're friends, too.

Jesus



Let's become even better friends...

We love hanging out with our friends. We laugh with them, tell them our secrets, and help them. What would happen in your family if you treated each other the way you treat your friends? How would that look tomorrow?

GOD GAVE HIS


SON

SO YOU CAN HAVE

ETERNAL LIFE.

(FROM JOHN 3:16)





**“i am WITH
WITH YOU
ALWAYS.”**

(MATTHEW 28:20)



Let's become even better friends...
Find a mirror and stand in front of it. Arrange yourselves as if you're posing for a family photo. Everyone smile, and be sure to leave room for me in the picture—we're family!

i WANT YOU TO KNOW...



We're in this together.

We're all in this together, you know. I want to be part of *your* family like I want you to be part of *mine*. And I want to do more than sit around watching you do all the work.

That's what your cat does. And I'm not your cat. I'm your best friend. I know families can fuss and fight. That not every family stays together. And sometimes things break in families that can't be fixed.

It hurts my heart, but I know it's true. And when those times come—when things are a little or a *lot* hard—I'm asking you to let me help. To hold on to me and hold on to each other, too.

Together, we'll get through what's hard. That's what friends do, you know. And we're more than friends—we're family.

Jesus



i WANT YOU TO KNOW...

You're important to me—all of you.

When I was on earth, lots of grown-ups thought they were more important than kids. Some grown-ups still act that way.

But not me.

I want to be friends with everyone in your family—no matter how old you are. That's because you're all special to me. And I've made you all special, too.

Maybe you're the little one in your family who draws beautiful rainbows. (I love rainbows!) Or you're a big kid who can do wheelies. (That looks fun!) Or you're a grown-up who fixes food for others. (Sometimes I made meals for my friends, too.)

You're never too young or too old to be my friend.
Or to fit into just the right spot in your family!

Jesus

Let's become even better friends...

Talk about this: What's special about everyone in your family? Maybe it's something cool they can do, or how well they hug. Whatever it is, tell them about it. And then tell me. After all, I made them that way!



“LET THE
CHILDREN
COME TO
ME.”

ME.”

(MATTHEW 19:14)





LISTEN...



a LOT.



(FROM JAMES 1:19)



i WANT YOU TO KNOW...



When you listen, you love.



People who know me are surprised at how much I listen.

I'm the Creator of the universe, you see. I know everything and everyone. It's not like people tell me things I don't already know.

But I love friendships, and listening is a great way to make and keep friends. It's a wonderful way to keep friends and family close and growing closer.

So do what I do: listen.

Listen when someone tells you about a good day at work or a bad day at school. About skateboarding like a pro or face-planting on the sidewalk.

Listening isn't just listening. It's loving, too.

Jesus



Let's become even better friends...

As a family, discuss what you're looking forward to. But don't talk—whisper instead. That way you'll all have to lean in and really listen!

i WANT YOU TO KNOW...

Be careful about judging each other.

It's easy to judge others. Maybe that's why it happens so often. He didn't wash the dishes, so he's lazy. She broke a promise, so she's a liar. Even in families, people are quick to judge others.

Often, too quick.

Maybe there's a good reason she couldn't keep her promise. Maybe he just forgot about the dishes. Until you ask, you don't know. So before you call people names or think you've figured them out, be sure you understand them.

Even better, leave the judging to me. I know you better than you know yourselves. And I can tell you this: None of you are perfect. All of you make mistakes. And I'd give my life for each of you.

So go slow with judging. And be very, very fast to love—like I am!

Jesus

Jesus loves families—including yours!

Jesus is the stuff best friends are made of! He's ready and willing to join your family adventures, bring peace to your family squabbles, and help your family love and honor each other super well.

Notes From Jesus for Families are Jesus' messages to your family today. Each playfully illustrated note includes:

- Advice for typical family matters, like “Do I really have to share?” “Why can't I get what I want?” and “What if families are messy?”
- An inspirational Bible verse to tuck away in your hearts
- Doable, family-friendly ideas to become even better friends with Jesus and each other

Made for families of all shapes and sizes!

Mikal Keefer is a grandfather who's authored more than 25 books for kids of all ages. His chief aim in life is snuggling his grandkids close so they can enjoy a good story together.

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