

# Worm's Dream

By Jerry Mobley



Worm lives in a tall tree and he dreams of flying high in the sky.

One day a bee flies by and Worm asks, "Will you teach me to fly?"

The bee laughs and says, "No. not I."



A dragonfly comes by and Worm asks, "Will you teach me to fly?"

The dragonfly laughs and says, "No, not I."

A bird drops in and Worm asks, "Will you teach me to fly?"

The bird doesn't laugh, but tries to catch Worm for a snack. Worm escapes into a hole in the tree.

A kite gets caught in the tree near Worm. He crawls onto the top of the kite and asks, "Will you teach me to fly?"

The kite ignores him.

A young boy climbs the tree and retrieves his kite. He notices Worm clinging to the kite and takes him home.

He places Worm in a glass jar with a few leaves for Worm to eat.

Worm likes his new home, but he still dreams of flying. After a few days he begins to build a house around his body.

Soon, he is completely enclosed and goes to sleep. He dreams and dreams.

Later Worm breaks out of his tight place. He feels different. He has traded his long body for beautiful wings.



He moves his new wings.

The boy sees Worm emerge from his house. He takes the jar outside into the bright sunshine.

He removes the jar lid and steps back.

Worm moves his wings rapidly. He flies from the glass jar and starts to climb toward the sun.

Suddenly he stops and returns to the boy as if to say, "Thank you for letting me fly".

Then Worm flies into the morning light to live his dream.



The boy says, "Goodbye, Butterfly. The old body that couldn't fly was changed to one that could. "

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*who, by the power that enables him  
to bring everything under his control,  
will transform our lowly bodies so that  
they will be like his glorious body.*

*Philippians 3:21 NIV*

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# No Party for Quacker

by Jerry Mobley



Quacker's birthday is tomorrow and he decides to have a party. He will have balloons and games and cake and punch. He will ask his friends to come. Quacker finds his friend, Puddin Cat. She is lying on the porch swing washing her silky fur.



Quacker says, "Puddin, I'm having a birthday party tomorrow. Will you come?"

Puddin Cat replies, "I'm sorry, Quacker, but I have to clean my fur tomorrow. I can't come."

Quacker finds Flopper Rabbit picking carrots from his garden. Quacker says,

"Flopper, I'm having a birthday party tomorrow. Will you come?"



Flopper Rabbit shakes his head and replies, "I'm sorry, Quacker, but I have to tend my garden tomorrow. I can't come."

Quacker finds his friend, Waggy Dog digging a hole by the fence. Quacker says,



"Waggy, I'm having a birthday party tomorrow. Will you come?" Waggy Dog shakes his head and replies, "I'm sorry, Quacker, but I have to finish this tunnel tomorrow. I can't come."

The next day, Quacker is very sad as he walks down the road. None of his friends can come to his birthday party. You don't need a party if your friends cannot come.

He meets Flopper pushing a wagon full of carrots. Flopper asks, "Can you help me, Quacker. I need to get these in the barn and this wagon is very heavy."

Quacker replies, "Sure, Flopper. I can help."

They push and push and finally get the wagon in the barn. They unload the carrots in a special spot in the corner of a stall.

As Quacker turns around, his friends jump from their hiding places and shout "Happy Birthday, Quaker!"



There are balloons and games and cake  
and punch. It's the best party Quaker can  
remember because his friends gave it to him.

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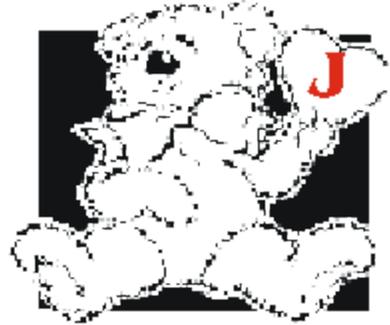
*A friend loves at all times,  
Proverbs 17:17a NIV*

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# Riley's Heart Problem

by Jerry Mobley



Riley has a problem. He knows he has Jesus in his heart, but he doesn't know how to show others. Is it like a plastic heart-shaped container with candy? How does a bear open up his heart and show others the sweet candy that is Jesus?

He goes to Papa Bear and asks, "Papa, do you have Jesus in your heart?"

"Why, yes I do, Son," answers Papa Bear. "Why do you ask?"

"How do we show others that we have Jesus in our hearts. Can you tell me?"



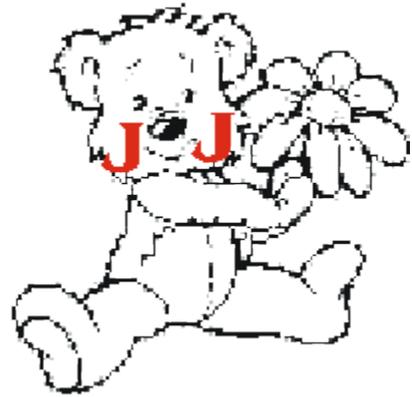
Papa thinks a moment and then replies, "Why, yes I can. I listen to the preacher at church and let God speak to me through the words I hear. I show others that I have Jesus in my heart by what I listen to. You have Jesus in your **ears** when you have Jesus in your **heart**."

Riley thanks his father and then he finds his mother in the kitchen. He asks, "Mama, do you have Jesus in your heart?"

"Why, yes I do, Riley," answers Mama Bear. "Why do you ask?"

"How do we show others that we have Jesus in our hearts. Can you tell me?"

Mama thinks a moment and then replies, "Why, yes I can. When I talk with anyone, what I say shows that I have Jesus in my heart. You have Jesus in your **words** when you have Jesus in your **heart**."

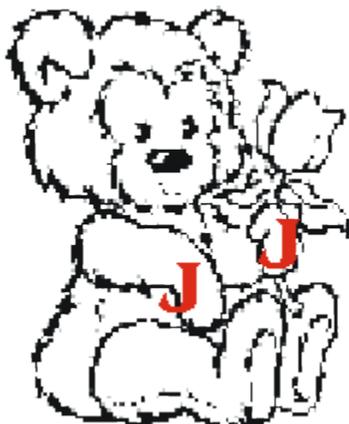


Riley thanks his mother and goes next door where his grandmother is working in the flower garden.

He asks, "Grandma, do you have Jesus in your heart?"

"Why, yes I do, Riley," answers Grandma Bear. "Why do you ask?"

"How do we show others that we have Jesus in our hearts. Can you tell me?"

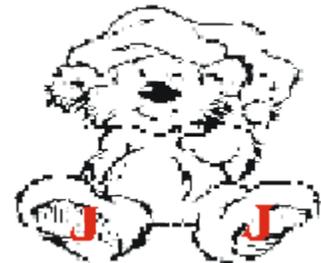


Grandma thinks a moment and then replies, "Why, yes I can. Right now, I'm picking a few flowers to take to Mrs. Beaker who is sick in the hospital. The things I do for others show that I have Jesus in my heart. You have Jesus in your **hands** when you have Jesus in your **heart**."

Riley thanks his grandmother and goes inside where his grandfather is reading the bible. He asks, "Grandpa, do you have Jesus in your heart?"

"Why, yes I do, Riley," answers Grandpa Bear. "Why do you ask?"

"How do we show others that we have Jesus in our hearts. Can you tell me?"



Grandpa thinks a moment and then replies, "Why, yes I can. Right now, I'm reading a scripture verse where Jesus says, 'Come, follow me.' We show others we have Jesus in our hearts by following the paths he wants us to travel. We have Jesus in our **feet** when we have Jesus in our **hearts**."

Riley thinks a moment and then says, "If we have Jesus in our hearts, what we say and what we do will show others. Is that it, Grandpa?"

Grandpa replies, "Riley, you are a very wise bear."

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Story inspired by Michelle's February 16, 2003 children's sermon.

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*...''Love the Lord your God with all your heart  
and with all your soul and with all your strength  
and with all your mind' and  
'Love your neighbor as yourself.'''  
Luke 10:27 NIV*

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# Where's Little Croak

by Jerry Mobley



Big Croak wants to go swimming. He asks Little Croak if he wants to go too.

Little Croak replies, "Why, yes I do, thank you."

As they travel down the path to the pond, Big Croak says, "Little Croak, now don't wander off. You might get lost."

"You bet, Dad," replies Little Croak. "You're the boss."

They arrive at the pond and they jump right in the water. Big Croak swims on this back and kicks with his feet. Little Croak likes to dive under water as he thinks this is neat.

Little Croak tires of swimming and says, "I think I'll go for a hop."



Big Croak holds up his hand like a traffic cop. He says, "Now don't wander off. You said you would stay near."

Little Croak replies, "I won't go far, Dad. You have nothing to fear."

Big Croak is worried as he watches his son hop away. He wonders if there is more he should say.

Little Croak hops and hops until finally he stops. He looked this way and that and then down he sat. "Oh, woe is me," he says as his lips quiver. "I don't know the way home." A chill down his back makes him shiver.

Little Croak turns as someone asks, "Can I help you?"

He sees a turtle who says, "My name is Teddy. Howdy-do."



Little Croak says, "My dad is waiting at the pond. Do you know the way?"

"I surely do," Teddy replies. "Let's get goin'... what ya say?"

They walk as fast as a turtle can go. He knows the way, but he is very slow.

Finally, they arrive back at the pond. Big Croak has his arms crossed and he looks very mad.

Little Croak says, "I'm sorry I didn't listen to you." He is very sad.

Big Croak puts his arm around Little Croak and says, "I was worried, but I forgive you, son. Just remember to not do it again."

The End

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***Children, obey your parents  
in everything, for this pleases the Lord.  
Colossians 3:20 NIV***

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# Looking For A Cookie

by Jerry Mobley



Willy is sitting beside the forest path reading a book when Riley walks by on his way to town.

Willy asks, "Riley, do you know where I can find a great cookie?"

Riley replies, "I certainly do. Go to Buster's Market. That's where I found the best. Look for the one with chocolate chips."

Willy says, "Thanks, Riley. I think I'll go get me one."

Willy goes to the store and finds the cookie aisle. He thinks, 'There are a lot of cookies to choose from. There are red cookies and blue cookies and sugar cookies and cookies with cream in the middle. Which one do I pick?'



He continues, 'Here's one that has chocolate chips, just like Riley said.' He looks at the price of the cookie. He exclaims aloud, "WOW! It says this cookie is FREE!! I'm going to get this cookie!"

Willy leaves the store with his special cookie. As he walks back to his home down the forest path, he looks at the cookie.

He says aloud, "It certainly looks like a good cookie."  
He smells the cookie and says, "It does smell like a good  
cookie."

Willy takes a bite of the cookie. Then he  
exclaims, "This is great! This is the best  
cookie in the world. This has made me so  
happy."



As he reaches his house, Riley is walking past again  
on his way from town. Willy stops his friend and says,  
"Thank you for telling me about this cookie. You don't  
know how great I feel."

Riley replies, "You're welcome, Willy. I want to tell  
all my friends about this special cookie and how good it is."



Willy says, "I going to do that too. We  
shouldn't keep it to ourselves. We should tell  
everyone."

The End

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Someone tells us about God's love and his Son, Jesus.  
We have to choose Jesus from other religions.  
We can't earn God's salvation because it is free.  
We have to take Jesus into our hearts.  
We should share with others what Jesus means to us.

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**For the wages of sin is death,  
But the gift of God is eternal life,  
In Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Romans 6:23 NIV**

Inspired by Ms Michelle's children sermon of March 16th.

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# Christmas Gifts

by Jerry Mobley

Early Christmas morning, Skippy and Duetie are walking down the snowy forest path.

Suddenly a beautiful acorn falls in front of them, "Plop!" Skippy exclaims, "Wow! God gave us a Christmas gift, Duetie!"



Duetie laughs as Skippy picks up the acorn. "Let's take it home and show Momma."



When they arrive home with their treasure, their mother is very happy. She says, "Acorns are scarce this year and God blessed you with a special gift."

"Wow!" Skippy exclaims. "Just like he gave us Jesus."

"That's right," Momma says. "And what are we to do with God's gift?"

"Ah...", Duetie replies with a question in her voice, "Maybe... we are to pass it on to others?"

"That's right. You know Mister Waternose, don't you?" Momma continues when her children nod their heads, "Well, he hurt his leg and can't go out to gather food. I think it would make him very happy if someone gave him a Christmas gift."

"You mean...", Skippy says. "we should give Mister Waternose our acorn?"

"Think about it... I need to finish Christmas dinner. Your father will be home soon."

After their mother leaves the room, Skippy asks, "What do you think, Duetie? Should we give away this gift?"

Duetie replies, "I think so, Skippy. I'll put this ribbon on it and you fix a Christmas tag."



The two young squirrels decorate the acorn and then take their treasure down the path to Mister Waternose's tree. They knock on the door and run behind a nearby bush to watch.

Mister Waternose opens the door and sees the gift on his doorstep. He looks up and down the forest path, but doesn't see anyone. He smiles as he picks up the present and goes back into his house.

As they walk back home, Duetie says, "I'm glad we gave our gift away."

Skippy replies, "Me too. It feels good to see we made someone happy."



They are surprised as two acorns fall in the snow in front of them. "Plop! Plop!"



They look at each other and smile. Skippy says, "It's like Momma says. You can't out give God."

"Merry Christmas, Skippy." "Merry Christmas, Duetie"

The End

**But the angel said unto them,  
"Do not be afraid. I bring you  
good news of great joy that will  
be for all the people. Today in  
the town of David a Savior has  
been born to you; he is  
Christ the Lord."**

**Luke 2:10,11**

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