

Kaleidoscope



Good Shepherd Lutheran School

2021-2022

"Not Ashamed"

Romans 1:16

Kindergarten

Mrs. Krause & Mrs. Sengele

We did a writing project with our junior high buddies. These are the stories they created.



Jack A. - The Family Vacation

I went to go to the cabin in my black van. When I got to the cabin I went fishing. I enjoyed going to the cabin and going fishing!

Camryn B. - Fun Vacation

I went to Disney World on a big airplane. I went swimming and sunbathed on some chairs. The castle was lit up and there were a lot of fireworks. Then it was time to go home.

Brody B. - Trip to the Zoo

When I go to the zoo I look at animals. I look at crocodiles, lions. I look at the polar bears. After I look at animals I count them.

Weston F. - Going to Texas

First we went to Texas at Christmas. I shot a bow in Texas. Then I went home.

Jolis F. - Going to Florida!

It is hot in Florida. I am going to stay in a beach house. I want to go see the Disney princesses at Disney World.

Easton G. - Our Zoo Vacation

First I saw a king cobra, then I saw saltwater crocodile, then five elephants. Then I saw a giraffe and a rhino. The end.

Eli H. - Eli's Vacation to Canada

We are flying to Canada. We are landing in Canada. We get off the plane. We drive to the hotel. We get to the hotel and settle in. I'm on my way to hockey. I'm going to leave Canada tomorrow. I just got back home. I unpacked. I am playing video games and my mom is out getting food. The end.



Kylie H. - My Trip to the Park

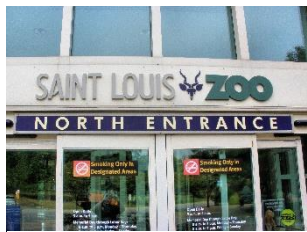
I went to the park. My Papa took me and my brother to the park. We slid on the slide. I went to the exercise park. I did push ups. My brother did sit ups and my Papa watched us. When we looked at the swings we saw that there wasn't anyone there. After the park all three of us went to the store. I got a strawberry milkshake. My brother got a chocolate one and my Papa got a vanilla one. It was a good day.

Layla J. - Trip to the Zoo

The zoo is fun. I see lions, crocodiles, Hippos and monkeys. I also see snakes. I like to eat popcorn at the zoo. I love to get M & M ice cream. I love to bring my dog, whose name is Momo. I also see fish. My last and favorite animal to see is the penguin.

Addi O. - Going to the Park with Addi

My family and I rode our bikes to the Airplane park. I climbed the rope and went down the slide. I went to Culver's with my family, then rode my bike back home. The end.



Caleb M. - My Trip to the St Louis Zoo

When I went to the St Louis Zoo I saw some elephants, lions and some snakes. After I saw some animals I ate peanut butter and jelly and drank some water. When I got done eating we saw some more animals. Then we left the zoo.

Spencer O. - The Trip to Mexico

I went to the pool in Mexico and then the hot tub. I ate cereal in Mexico. On the way home my sister threw up on the plane.

Ethan P. - My Family Vacation

First I went to Vancouver and went to a Canucks game. The next day I went to the pool and the hotel. Then I went snow skiing with my family.

Alexa T. - The Zoo

The zoo is fun. Cutie goes to the giraffe pen. The zoo is fun.

Reagan A. - My Family Vacation

My family and I are at the beach. My Grandparents are coming with us. We are going to have fun.

Tucker B. - My Visit to the Park

I slid on the slide. It is a fun time. I swung on the swing. It is fun.



Charlie C. - My Visit to the Park

I played on the playground. I ate dinner at the picnic table with my family. I also played with Bella my dog and my cat Emma at the park. I played with my sister at the park too.



Will F. - My Family Vacation

My family went to Florida to go to Disneyworld. I like eating ice cream there. I love the water parks. I can't wait to go again.

Gracelyn G. - My Family Vacation

On my family vacation I went to Florida. I played in the sand. I swam in the pool.

Asher H. - My Family Vacation

I went to a haunted house at the aquarium. I saw robotic dinosaurs. I played mini golf with my family. We stayed at the cabin.

Yana J. - My Zoo Day

I saw a zebra at the zoo. I went to the zoo with my friends and family. I saw a turtle and a leopard. It was a fun day.

Sam K. - My Family Vacation

I went to the water park and went on the slides. I went on the lazy river. I liked the slides.



Daisy M. - Found

This is how Daisy found her pet. Daisy drove her car to the zoo. Mom bought an elephant.

Parker O. - My Visit to the Park

I went on a slide. I liked it. It was hot.

Gavin S. - My Visit to the Park

We drove to the park. The park is fun. We got on the train. Then we went home.

Dax S. - My Family Vacation

I went to Disneyland. I rode Goofy's Sky School ride. I rode on Thunder Mountain. I rode the Matterhorn.

Gus S. - I am Spidey

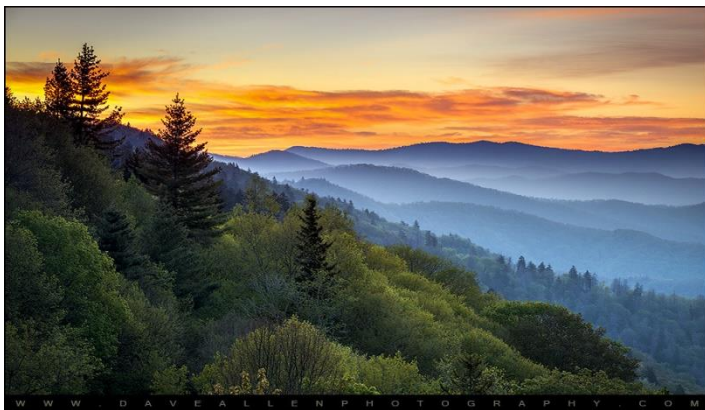
I practiced my jumping moves and back flips on the trampoline. I worked on my flips on my bed so I am Spiderman. I am Spiderman because I can do a lot of things that he can do.

Noah W. - My Family Vacation

I went to the Smoky Mountains. I went to Florida. I went to Disneyland. Overall, I had a fun time on my family vacation.

Elliot Y. - My Family Vacation

I saw Mickey Mouse. I slept in bunk beds. I rode on the Slinky Dog ride.



First Grade

Mrs. Robinson

We wrote descriptive paragraphs using the five senses.

Today I am doing something fun! I am at the beach. I saw a jellyfish that looked blue and white. I heard the crashing waves that were so loud. I smelled a fishy smell that did not smell good. I suddenly tasted the salt water that did not taste good. I felt sand that felt rough. **Ella B.**

Today I am doing something fun! I am eating at Red Robin. I gobbled all of the good food. I heard everyone talking and yelling. I smelled the yummy french fries. I tasted the corndogs. I felt the warm cheeseburger in my hands. **Joel A.**

Today I am doing something fun! I am going to the dance studio. I see big and small people dancing. I hear the loud music. I smell stinky feet when people take their shoes off. I taste the delicious treats. I feel the wooden barre in my hands. **Kaelyn P.**

Today I am doing something fun! I am going on a hike. I saw a goose and it was white and sitting in the river. I heard the tiny waves of the river. I smelled the outside smell. I tasted the yummy water in my cup. I felt the wind around me. **Fred S.**



Today I am doing something fun! I am going to Wang Gang. I see a lot of waiters. I hear my family talking about Florida. I smell the delicious fries and cheeseburgers. I taste the yummy cheeseburgers. I feel the steaming, hot plate. **Emily L.**



Today I am doing something fun! I am going to cheerleading. I smell the mint candy. I hear the people yelling. I see the people yelling cheers. I eat yummy cake. I feel fluffy ruffles. **Sophia A.**

Today I am doing something fun! I am going to a party. I see lots of animals like horses, chickens, and piggies. I hear lots of annoying noises. I smell stinky animals. I tasted hot dogs which were warm and delicious. I felt fur and it was really soft. **Sebastian M.**

Today I am doing something fun! I am going to Red Robin. I see the chefs cooking. I hear a lot of people talking. I smell hamburgers. I tasted the delicious hamburgers. I feel the amazing, warm bun in my hands. **Lauren L.**

Today I am doing something fun! I am watching TV. I can see the TV. I am watching Paw Patrol. They are rescuing a cat or dog. I can hear the show. I feel good. **Henry B.**

Today I am doing something fun! I am going to a roller skating rink. It is my sister's friend's birthday. I see a lot of little people. I hear parents talking. I smell the delicious cake. I taste the beautiful cake. I fell many times and it hurt to fall. **Callie L.**

Today I am doing something fun! I am going to church. I saw my dad up on the stage. I heard my dad preaching the Gospel. I smelled the fresh good news from the Gospel. I tasted God's Word. I felt the Gospel grow my faith. **Josiah J.**

Today I am doing something fun! I am kayaking. I see the big, green turtles. I hear the waves hitting the shore. I smell the salt water. I taste the salt water. I felt the heavy water as we paddled.
Alice M.



Today I am doing something fun! I am eating breakfast. I saw the Captain Crunch cereal. I hear the small bubbles popping in the big bowl. I smell the nice air. I taste the delicious cereal. I feel the metal spoon on my hand. **Freddy H.**

Today I am doing something fun! I am playing cool Mario Kart. I saw the pretty cars. Some of the cars were red and some were pink. I heard the beautiful, loud music. I smell the yummy chicken that my dad is cooking. I tasted the good chips that I was eating. I felt the soft, orange iPad. **Annalynne C.**

Today I am doing something fun! I am going to Red Robin. I saw lots of tall and small people. I hear lots of loud talking. I will smell the yummy, delicious food and I will taste the mac and cheese. I will feel my sweet mom and dad. **Josie F.**

Today I am doing something fun! I am camping! I see Maple trees around me. I hear bats at night. I smell smoke from the hot campfire. I taste smores and they are yummy. I felt the air and it felt very good.
Jaxson T.



Today I am doing something fun! I am playing dollhouse with my friends. I see the dollhouse. I hear when they walk. I smell the mommy making tomato soup. I feel my doll's dress. **Saina B.**



Today I am doing something fun! I am going to the beach. I saw a seagull that was loud. I heard the waves crashing in the ocean. I smelled hot dogs. I tasted the hot dog and it was delicious. I felt the sand on my feet. **Hosea G.**

Today I am doing something fun! I am baking cookies! I see all the ingredients. I hear a vroosh from the mixer. I smell the cookies. I taste the cookies. They are so yummy! I feel the cookies. They are hot! **Liam H.**

Today I am doing something fun! I am eating at 54th Street. I see people. I hear loud noises. I smell delicious food. I taste the hot hamburger, fries and steak. I feel the hot, warm steam. **Micah H.**

Today I am doing something fun! I am watching my tablet. I am playing Minecraft. I build tall houses and small trains. I see beautiful flowers, scary zombies, brown rabbits, and biting spiders. I feel my vibrating screen. **Colton W.**

Today I am doing something fun! I am going to Red Robin. I see gooey mac and cheese. I hear the people ordering. I smell the warm mac and cheese. I tasted the delicious mac and cheese. I feel the metal fork in my hands. **Bekham W.**

Today I am doing something fun! I am spending the day with my mom. We are meeting my friends at Urban Air. I am getting new roller blades. We ate lunch at 54th Street. **Cooper B.**

Today I am doing something fun! I am going to Ohana. I see the banana bread pudding. I hear the people that are talking. I smell the aroma of cheese. I taste the delicious bread pudding. I feel the comfy couches. It was a hotel. **Emily F.**

Today I am doing something fun! I am going to the Red Robin in Edwardsville. I see people sitting. I hear a bunch of people loudly talking. I smell the yummy fries. I taste the salty pickle. I feel the hot burger bun. **Brooklyn M.**



Second Grade

Mrs. Rincker

We did research projects of animals of Africa.

Leopards have strong necks. They also climb trees. They are carnivores and eat meat. The predators are hyena and pointer dogs. Leopards live 12 to 15 years. This animal is very cool to me. **Jemma A.**

Do you know an animal that looks like a monkey? A Gorilla! Did you know that a gorilla can go 22 mph? They're 600 pounds - that's a lot! They're 6 foot tall. Wow, that's tall! A gorilla eats bamboo, fruits, and leaves. They live in the jungle. Their predators are lions, leopards, crocodiles and humans. The gorillas have one baby at a time. The babies stay with their mothers for 9 months. They stay in a family. It was fun to learn about my favorite animal!

Aiden B.



Did you know that the fastest animal on earth is a cheetah? The cheetah can run up to 70 mph. That is the fastest speed it can go. Did you know that cheetah's eat gazelles? A cheetah lives in the savanna in Africa. The savanna is really hot. When they get older they go and live on their own. Their enemies are a lion and a hyena. A cheetah has spots on its body. Males are larger. Then they are born, they weigh 9-14 ounces. Did you know that a baby cheetah is called a cub? **Lexi D.**

Do you know what the hyena looks like? It looks like a dog, but did you know that it is more related to a cat? They are very good hunters and they are very fast. If they weren't fast they would not be good hunters. They weigh up to 180 lbs. And standing up to 30 inches. They live in a rocky, grassy, sandy place with trees and lakes called a savanna in Africa. They eat dead birds, elephants, deer, and rhinos. Their predators are lions, leopards and crocodiles. Did you know hyenas live in groups called clans up to 80 member and they are carnivores? **Claire D.**



Do you know what reminds me of the cheetah? A leopard! A leopard is the most powerful cat out of all of them, wow! A leopard is a good hunter and great climber. A leopard lives in the jungle in Africa with lots of trees to climb on. Leopards also live in the savanna. A leopard will eat jackals, baboons, and its most favorite, gazelles! A leopard has enemies too. Lions and hyenas will surround a leopard. A leopard will have one cub at a time. The cubs depend on their mothers for food. I thought it was a good animal to learn about. **Ellie F.**

Do you know what a meerkat is? A meerkat is a small animal with grizzled gray and brown fur. They have patches around their eyes to protect their eyes. They live in the desert in Southern Africa. They live in social groups of 6 to 30 members. They eat lots of insects. Meerkats like eating and digging holes. Their predators are snakes, jackals, and eagles. I think meerkats are fun. **Hazel F.**



Do you know what a cheetah looks like? It has orange and black dots. Cheetahs like to eat gazelles. Lions eat cheetahs. It's sad. Cheetahs live alone. **Violet G.**

Did you know that female lemurs only come once a season? Lemurs are woolly-furred and long-tailed mammals. They live on the island of Madagascar off the coast of Africa. They eat plants, leaves, fruit and insects. Their predators are the fossa, large boa and hawks. They can live up to 15 years old. There are over 100 species of lemurs. Baby lemurs are called pups. Ring-tailed lemurs drink dew from leaves. True lemurs do not swim well. The ring-tailed can jump vertically up to 3 meters. Lemurs are interesting animals. **Gavin G.**

Did you know that no two wild dogs are the same. Each one is different. They can grow 24 to 30 inches. You can find wild dogs in the savannah, grasslands, woodlands and mountains of Africa. They like to eat gazelles, antelope, rats and birds. Wild dogs hunted by lions, hyenas and humans. The wild dog normally lives in packs. A female can have up to 20 babies. **Savannah G.**



Do you know a spotted dog is also called a hyena? Can you guess where it lives? In the savannahs in Africa. Can you guess what its favorite meal is? It's an antelope. Its predators are lions, hyenas, and people. They all live together called clans. I love spotted dogs! **Camy H.**

Hi, Do you know about the caracal? They can jump over 10 feet and are kept as pets. They are tannish orange color. They live in the desert in Africa. They are carnivores and eat birds. They get eaten by lions. Adults are 3 pounds. It takes 3 weeks for the baby's ears to form. I like caracals. **Francesca H.**

Gorillas are the largest of all the apes. They are 6 feet tall and they weigh 600 pounds! Gorillas live in the jungle in the country of Africa. Gorillas eat leaves, shoots, roots and 100 fruits. Enemies of gorillas are humans, lions, and leopards. The babies stay with their mothers for months. **Maddox J.**

Do you know a dog? Well we're going to learn about a wild dog. It has a colorful patchy coat. It has large bat ears, bushy tail, and white tip. The colors are black, white, brown, yellow and red. It is an efficient hunter and the second largest canine in the whole world. Do you know where a wild dog lives? It lives in the savannah. In Africa, they live in scrublands, woodlands and mountains. Do you know what it eats? It eats a lot of vegetables. Antelopes are their favorite food ever. They also like rabbits, possums, rats, wallabies, and bandicoots. Do you know who the predators are? The lions, hyenas, and the most bad one, humans. The family life is the little cubs play together and bond together. They mostly go out late in the afternoon and have family time together. **Isla J.**

Do you know one of the most fierce animals? Honey Badgers! They have a few predators, lions, leopards and hyenas. They have short legs and sharp claws. Did you know they have thick fur like bears? They eat almost everything. They have black and white fur. They live in the savannah in Africa. They stay with their mom for two years. I hope you had fun learning about my favorite animal. **Joseph K.**



Do you know how tall a lion is? You might think it's short. But it's really tall when it stands up. It weighs 400 pounds. It's a social big cat. Males have manes when they are adults. They have enormous fangs. It lives in the Savannah grasslands of central southern Africa. It eats gazelles, warthogs, cattle and zebras. Other lions will hunt them. Hyenas will hunt females or humans will hunt them. A lion's family is called a pride. There are usually about up to 40 lions in a pride, including up to 3 or 4 males. If there is a cub, that's a male, it stays in the pride for a little while and then it leaves for a while and then it comes back to the pride. That's all folks. **James K.**



Have you ever heard of a cheetah? Let me tell you some facts about cheetahs. They have little and big spots. When the cheetahs are babies they are very furry. Cheetahs live in the savanna in Africa. They are most likely to live in open plains or grasslands! The cheetah's favorite food is the gazelle. They also like rabbits and Kadas. The cheetah's predators are lions, leopards and hyenas. A cheetah sleeps for about 12 hours a day. Cheetah cubs stay with their mothers for about 18 months. The cheetah mom can have 1-8 cubs at a time. **Amelia R.**

Do you know what leopards look like? They can climb trees. They have white and yellow fur. They have black spots. They live in woodlands, forests, and savannahs of Asia and Africa. They eat rabbit, gazelle, cheetahs, cubs, baboons, rodents, monkeys, snakes, birds, amphibians, fish, antelope, warthogs, and porcupines. The animals that eat leopards are lions, tigers, a pack of wild dogs, and a pack of hyenas. Their kids leave at about 12 to 18 years old. The mom stays with them about 2 years then they leave. Leopards are interesting. **Aiden L.**

Do you know a leopard can run 36 mph? Leopards can walk at 3 weeks old. Leopards can get about 20 to 26 inches. The habitats of a leopard are the jungle or savannah in Africa. Leopard's favorite food is rabbits, and gazelles. The leopard's predators are lions, tigers and people. The leopard's family life is that they live all alone. **Gavin S.**

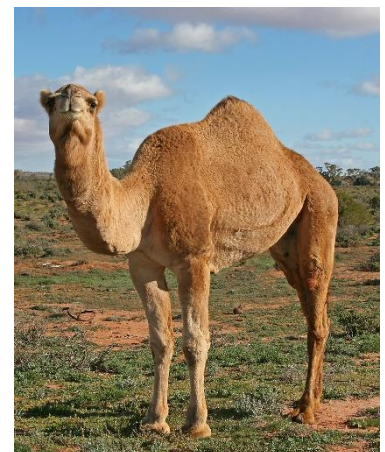


Do you want to know what my favorite animal is? Well, one of mine is a . Did you know the ears have hair on the tip and white under the eye. It looks like a type of cat. It lives in the woodlands, and savannah of Africa. It eats hares, rodents, and antelopes. Its predators are lions and hyenas. The mother makes its home in an abandoned aardvark or porcupine den. It usually has one baby at a time. **Sydney S.**

Did you know that cheetahs are the fastest animals on earth? They can run up to 70 mph and weigh up to 70 to 130 pounds! They eat rabbits and zebras. Their predators hunt at day not night. They are called leopards and lions. Cheetahs also have very dull claws unlike leopards. Cheetahs live in the savannah and grasslands of Africa. They were built for speed. They can even run about 10 football fields without stopping. That's pretty cool! **Ceana S.**

Do you know what the fastest animal is? It's a cheetah! Did you know that they have black spots for camouflage and their claws do not retract. They live in the savannah in Africa. They do not like vultures and lions. Those are their predators. Some cheetahs live in coalitions mostly made of boys. Cheetahs can have up to 6 to 8 babies at a time. **Richard V.**

Let me tell you some interesting facts about camels. Camels have humps and a tail. Personally to me, camels look ugly! Camels live in the desert. Camels eat grass, grains, wheat, and oats. The camels' predators are lions, leopards and humans. Camels are social animals that live in groups. **Holden W.**



Do you know what a hyena looks like? They are tan, orange and brown with black spots. They are sneaky fast scavengers. They live in savannahs, grasslands, woodlands, and mountains of Africa. They will eat birds, lizards, snakes, antelopes and even lions. But lions and mabe snakes try to eat them and hunters try to kill them. A female hyena gives birth to one or two cubs. Males leave their clan to join a different clan. **Grant W.**

Do you know what the fastest animal is? It's a cheetah. Cheetahs can run up to 70 mph. Cheetahs are said to be the fastest animal on Earth. They live in the savannah to subdesert. Cheetahs eat gazelles. Their predators are lions and hyenas. Cheetahs have unique tear stripes under each eye. Usually the male is larger. Did you know there is not a dad there is only a mate. I think a cheetah is a cool animal! **Hudson Y.**

Did you know baboons' eyes open at birth? The average weight for a baboon is 50-100 pounds. Males are much larger. They live in Asia and Africa. They love eating fruits and insects. They have to be careful with leopards and lions. They get independent at the age of ten years old. Baboons get mature at the age of thirteen. **Jed S.**



Third Grade

Mrs. Pritchard & Miss Gain

We wrote descriptive paragraphs of the birds that they built.

I am going to talk about my bird. First I will talk about her face. She has a square nose and she has a halo on top of her head. Now I will talk about her body. She has white feet and red wings. So that was about my bird. I hoped you liked it!

By Tinley F.



My bird. It has marks on it. It has very bright blue and red feathers. It has eyes, legs, and a beak and it's colorful. It has green around his eyes. Well hope you enjoyed my bird.

By Hayes O.

Today I'm describing my bird Jeffery. Jeffery has pink feathers and purple eyes. Jeffery has a beak and brown and blue feathers. He has an orange feather, sticks in his nest. Jeffery has purple legs and a white backbone. Jeffery has a purple neck and a white belly. Jeffery has wings. My bird Jeffery is a cool bird.

By Errolyn K.



I made a bird in science. My bird has giant feet. I love my blue, pink, purple, and yellow feathers. I had to give it a sturdy stick beak. It is an angel, so it has a halo. My bird has a nest with real sticks and leaves. It has a broken wing on its right. This is my bird I made in science.

By Lola F.

I made a bird and nest. My bird's name is Bella. She has yellow, purple, pink, light pink, blue and peacock feathers. She is so colorful. She is fluffy. I made a nest, and I made sticks too. Making my bird was a cool experience.

By Molly F.

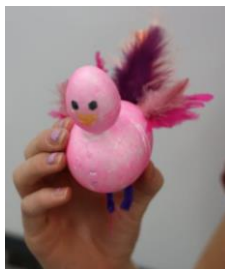


How I built my bird from about nothing. I built it from pipe cleaners, feathers, and foam eggs. It has white wings and a gray tail. A head, a beak, and a body. A big tail, a black head and body, and small legs. It lays on its nest. Remember it is how I built my bird.

By Daniel L.

These are things about Eli's bird. My bird has a lot of jungle color feathers. It has huge alien eyes. His whole body is green! He has one big red feather. He has a long Minecraft villager beak. This is all about Eli's alien bird.

By Eli J.



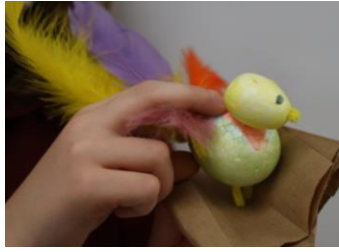
These are the facts that tell about my bird. First I colored it pink. Then I put pink and purple wings on it. Next I drew eyes and a beak on it. Then I made a nest. It was almost all pink. These are the facts about my bird.

By Vivian C.

I am describing my bird. My bird is very yellow. It has very short legs. It has a red head. It has a purple belly. I made my bird with markers and foam eggs and these tube things. That is my bird.

By Nathan F.





This is a story about a beautiful bird. My bird is made out of a foam egg. My bird has a lot of colors. My bird's name is Jeff the bird. My bird has wings, feathers, and feet too. My bird is now completed. This is a bird named Jeff.

By Hailey S.

This is a story about a bird. It has feathers. She really loves eating. My bird sleeps and relaxes all day. She is really messy. She has really small wings. She has really small wings. She has lots of sticks and food. She eats every three or two seconds. She has lots of food. She loves people. She also loves getting cared people. I love my messy bird.

By Vanessa V.

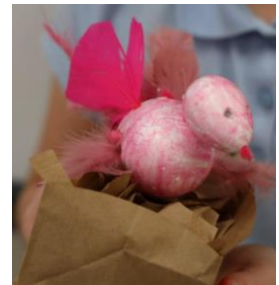


This is my bird. He is plain, but he has fluffy feathers. The colors are black, blue, gray, and light blue. He has green eyes. Did you like my bird?

By Logan C.

This is a paragraph about my bird. My bird is really PINK and my bird is made of foam, glue and a pink pipe cleaner. My bird has 10 feathers. My bird looks. O.K! I hope you like my bird paragraph.

By Mia W.



My bird is a vulture. It lives in a big nest. It loves to eat animals and to fight and likes to fly. And it's so fast. I like my bird.

By Owen C.

How I made my bird was I got pink and peacock feathers. Then I got glue and put feathers on Winter's



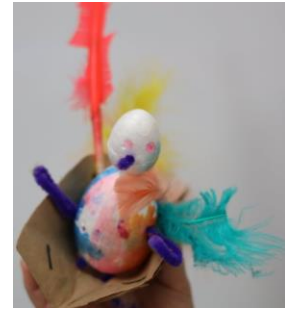


head. Winter was born in fall. So I named her inter because it was close to Christmas. My bird was made with feathers, styrofoam, and pipe cleaners. My bird looks like a real bird and it looks good. This is what my bird looks like.

By Madilyn S.

I am describing my bird Coco. Her nest is a donut shape. Her colors are blue, orange, pink, purple. And her feathers are light pink, yellow, and dark pink, and teal. And her eyes are pink. It was a fun experience.

By Lily W.



By Mya W.

This is my bird Floida. I love my friend. It has my favorite color is light pink. My bird has a nest from the beach that she bring it home. My bird lives on the beach. She has pink wings and blue eyes and a white nose and I love my bird the end.



I built a very cute bird. The first step was to put the head and body together. Then I made feet and a beak out of pipe cleaners. Then I used feathers to make wings and a tail. Then I colored the head and body. After that I used a paper bag to make a nest. Then I glued sticks into my nest so it looked real. In the end it looked like a peacock. That is how I made my bird!

By Allison B.

After reading the selection, In My Family, in our reading books, we wrote about something special about their family.

Husker Parties

For every Nebraska football game, my family has a party and watches the football game.

John A.



Innsbrook

My family goes to a cabin in Innsbrook. It is a place where you have wifi but you are camping. It is a lake house, too. You can go paddle boarding. I could not go because I had surgery on my arm. We played golf and ate in the club house. We will go there every year.

Ryan B.

Me and My Dogs (when I get home, usually)

I play with my dogs outside and with my mom and dad. When I play with my dad, we play soccer and then we play baseball. My dog eats all the balls! Then I watch my iPad and usually I take a shower and stay up until 12:30 a.m. or 5:00 a.m. Then the next day I wake up and eat breakfast, change, brush my hair and teeth, and then I watch my iPad. Then I head off to school. When I get home after school, since it is a Thursday, I pack my backpack and get changed and do it over again (usually).

Paisley H.

My Family

My family loves carmel and loves chocolate and fruit. We try to exercise everyday.

Andi H.



Mellow Creams

My family gets Mellow Cream donuts while we are camping. We get them in the morning because my mom really likes them.

Brennan I.

Summertime Fun

In the summer, me and my cousins go to something called Nana Camp. So we wake up and go to the mailbox by the playhouse and get whatever is in the mailbox. Then we hop in the pool. Then we just play, play, play and repeat.

Emma J.



Me and My Sister

Me and my sister love to jump on the trampoline on Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays, and the weekend. While me and my sister do that, my mom and dad sit on the porch and watch us. Me and my sister have a lot of fun doing that on the trampoline. Then we go in for supper.

Kailee K.

Family Reunions

My family has family reunions every year in Minnesota. We have the reunions at Thanksgiving.

Hunter M.

My Family

I do math with my mom. I play with my dog and my family.

Woody M.

April!

In my family, April Fools Day lasts for a week! So what you have to do is either take cover or fight back. My favorite April Fools Day prank is one that my dad pulled on me. Here's what he did. He put hot sauce on my tooth brush! This is one of my favorite family memories.

Adelynn M.

Something Special

Something special in my family is that they trust me to go outside by myself and play with my friends.

Aria M.

The Beach

Me and my family go to the beach every summer. I go on a little surf board.

Lexi M.



I Love My Family

I love my family. We love to go out to places together. Every day I want to play outside with my whole family. But they still spoil me. My brothers are sometimes annoying.

Natalie S.

Disney Movies

On Wednesdays, we watch Disney movies because we want to watch all of the Disney movies. We watch the movies after supper. We sit in the living room all comfortable and cozy. We watch the newest Disney movie.

Rylen T.

Things My Family Likes

My dad loves to build things with wood. He even built a rocking chair out of wood! My mom works at Anderson Hospital. She is really sweet. She even took me on a surprise vacation to Florida. My uncle loves video games. My other uncle is a drummer. One of my aunts is moving to my grandma's house. My second aunt is probably playing with her toddler. Now about my grandmas and grandpa - one is obsessed with cats and the other is dogs. Now my grandpa used to do drywall but now he's working on the basement for my aunt and uncle. So that's all about my family.

Riley Y.



Fourth Grade

Mrs. Batty & Mrs. Maske

"Look at the sky, it's so dark," said Rosie the sheep.
"What's going on over there?" asked Goldie the horse.
"It looks like people are coming," answered Rosie.
"It looks like there are also angels down there," said Goldie.
"I wonder what they're doing?" questioned Rosie.
"Maybe we should go a little closer," whispered Goldie.
"Good idea." stated Rosie.
"Do you see the baby?" asked Goldie.
"Let's go look at him," declared Rosie.
"I wonder what will happen tomorrow," commented Goldie.
Agnes H. and Charlotte P.



"Do you see that star?" noted the gold.
"Yes, I see the star. It is bright," answered the camel.
"Why is the wise man bringing me here? Do you know?" asked the gold.
"I think a baby is born," commented the camel.
"Maybe," answered the gold.
"Where are we going by the way?" asked the camel.
"I have no clue," answered the gold.
"Me neither," remarked the camel.
"Look there's a stable," stated the gold.
"Oh there he is baby Jesus," said the camel.
Alexis K. and Nate P.

Bread asked, "What is going on?"
"I don't know," answered Goat.



"I think I see people!" shouted Bread.
"What are they doing?" asked Goat.
"I think I see a baby," Bread stated.
"I think I see it too," added Goat.
"Why is everyone bowing to the baby?" asked Bread.
"The animals are too!" Goat exclaimed.
"Why is the baby glowing?" asked Bread.

Goat said, "Look at the star in the sky, it's so bright."

Owen C. and Levi T.

"We finally made it, Sand!" exclaimed the Camel.

"Yeah, we made it!" Sand exclaimed.

The Camel said, "Hey, what is that thing in the sky?"

"That is a star," said Sand.

"Look below the star, it is a manger," stated the Camel.

"Wow the child is beautiful!" replied Sand.

"Wow, I can't believe we got to see the holy child!" exclaimed Camel.

"Yeah, I can't wait to tell all of my friends!" replied Sand.

"We should head back it is becoming morning," stated Camel.

"Before we go, can we see the child one more time?" asked Sand.

Caleb B. and Parker L.

"It looks like those people don't have a place to stay," stated Cho the bat.

"I heard an innkeeper say that they could stay in a barn," whispered Cedric the mouse."

"But I heard their child is the Son of God. How is he going to be born in a barn?" questioned Cho.

"Oh yea, I did not think about that..." answered Cedric.

"Oh look, they are going to a barn. Let's follow!" exclaimed Cho.

"That sounds like a good idea. Let's go!" exclaimed Cedric.

"Ok we are here, I wonder what they are doing?" asked Cho.

"Me too..." added Cedric

"What is that noise?" whispered Cho.

"I think it's a baby crying," explained Cedric.

"There's baby Jesus!" shouted Cho.

"Let's go check it out," said Cedric.

"Awww, baby Jesus is so cute," yelled Cho.

"I hope they have a good time with their new baby," commented Cedric.

Emily R. and Caroline S.

"Do you hear that?" asked the horse.

"No," answered Moomoo the cow. "But, do you see that bright light in the sky?"

"Yes I do," remarked Horsey.

"It's falling from the sky. Is it a shooting star?" asked Moomoo.

"It disappeared. Where did it go?" added Horsey.

"Is that a baby sound?" muttered Moomoo.

"Yes, it is. What do you think it's name is?" yelled Horsey.



“I don’t know, let’s go check it out.” explained Moomoo.
So they walked over to the manger and saw the tiny baby.

Violet M. and Adalie T.



“Horse, I heard that a baby was going to be born,” I said.
“Yeah, I also heard He is going to be the Savior and He is named Jesus,” Horse said.
“Horse, do you hear that? I heard a donkey and people coming to the stable. I hope it is the baby!” I exclaimed.
“Let’s go see if it is. This is going to be amazing!” exclaimed Horse.
We walked into the stable.
“He is so beautiful! He is going to be the most wonderful Savior and baby

Ever!” Horse screamed.
“He is so cute!” I screamed.
“I can not wait to meet him!” I exclaimed.
“I wonder when the wise men will be here, they probably can not wait to meet Him,” Horse wondered.
“I wonder what the wise men’s gifts are,” I wondered.
“Yeah, let’s go keep a look out for them and warn the people when the wise men are here,” Horse said.

Kaelyn S. and Amelia W.

“Why are there angels here?” asked Sephora the bat.
Manger answered, “Because it is Jesus’ birth.”
“Who is Jesus?” questioned Sephora the bat.
Manger explained, “He’s the Lord’s son.”
Sephora the bat asked, “The Lord has a son?”
Manger whispered, “Shhh, yes the baby went to bed.”
Questioned Sephora the bat, “Then why is He on earth?”
Manger replied, “Because the Lord sent Him down from heaven to save our lives.”

Sephora the bat yelled, “How did he get here? Is there an invisible elevator Somewhere?”

Manger answered, “Probably, He is a prince after all.”
“Well that makes sense I guess, but then why isn’t He in a castle?” said Sephora the bat.

Manger stated, “I’m not sure.”

Matti C. and Sephora L.

“ What a pretty night,” explained Zander the star.
“ Yes,”said Tot the Earth.
“I think I see a star,” said Zander the star.
“ It is over,” said Tot the Earth.
“ Yes it is pretty”, said Zander the star.
“ Wait, I think I see a baby down there, " said Tot the Earth.
“Wow, what a good looking baby!” said Tot.
“I wonder if His name is Jesus!” exclaimed Zander.
“I think it is,” said Tot.

Nathan G. and Brayden P.

Spring brings Surprises
Like **P**ansies
And **R**oses
In spring flowers grow
begi**N** to bloom
Now that’s **G**ood smells
By: David K



Season
Praying for God
Red roses
I was painting eggs
New generation
God
By: Rylin R.

Sunshine
Petals
Roses
S**I**nging birds
Ge**N**tle breeze
Greener **G**rass
By: Myla G.

Sunscreen
Petals
Rose
Ice Cream
Nice bunnies
Good weather
By: Ava H.

School break
Blooming **P**lants
 Rose
 Ice cream truck
Nice weather
Good Friday
By: Isaiah W.

Sunrise
Petals
Rabbits
Insects
Nectar
Golfing
By: Sydney H.

Sunshine
 Pouncing bunnies
 Jesus **R**ose from the dead
We could have **I**ce cream
 Not cold
 Games
By: Daphne F.

Super sunny
Pretty flowers
Rainy days
It is getting hotter
No coldness
Good fun days
By: Jacob K.



Bring**S** new life
 People are funny during spring
 Rabbit season
 Ice cream
 Mi**N**ecraft is fun to play in spring
 God
By: Anthony M.

Sunshine
Petals
Rising Easter lilies
Ice Cream
New bunnies
Good Friday
By: Ella F.

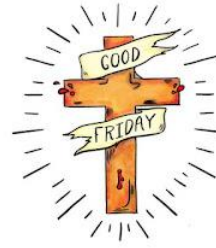
Sunny
Presents in Easter baskets
Roses
Ice cream
Nice weather
Good fun day
By: Abby R.

Blooming **S**urprises
 Pouncing bunnies
 Rain
 Ice cream
 New blooms
 Good Friday
By: Isabella B.

 Beautiful **S**unshine
 Pouncing bunnies
Storms and **R**ain
 Inspiring animals
 Nice weather
 Good Friday
By: Elise L.



Sunflowers
Blooming Petals
Roses from the ground
Ice cream truck
Nice weather
Good Friday
By: Piper M



There are so many Surprises in the eggs.
The Pouncing bunnies over the edge.
CherRy blossoms are so pretty!
Jesus dIed for us; we didn't pay a penny.
And it's RaiNing, but that's ok!
Because we will have a Great day with the Easter bunny.
By: Zion C.

Sunrise
Blooming Petals
Roses
Ice cream
Nice days
Great weather
By: Adrian V.

Spongebob
Pouncing
Rabbit
I see the bunny
No coldness
Greatness of nature
By: Marco S.

Sprouting flowers
Petals
Rainbows
bIrd
PaiNting eggs
Green grass
By: Natalie M.

Fifth Grade

Mr. Kreuger

Legendary Animals of the Middle Ages

The Legend of the Raturtafly Snaketail (Maria)

A long time ago, where the moon and sun met, lived creatures called Raturtafly Snaketails. They had the body of a raccoon, the shell of a turtle, the wings of a butterfly, and the tail of a snake. The turtle shell was where the raccoon would curl up when there was a sandstorm. The snake tail was a defense weapon. And the butterfly wings were for thanking the sun and moon for their great light.

The sun, Sunny, and moon, Luna, were great friends with the Raturtafly Snaketails. At this point of the earth, the sun and moon were twenty feet apart. Therefore, on the left side of the land, there was desert, full of cactuses and bedraggled shrubs; and on the right side, there was a waterfall and flowers and thick, fluffy grass. There was quite clearly a contrast.

One day, the king's guards came to the place where the moon met the sun, and they terminated all of the Raturtafly Snaketails. All except for one, which was the youngest.

About a year later, the critter was two years old. It was his birthday, but he had nobody to rejoice with, except Sunny and Luna, who sang him a song. But it wasn't the same as when all of his kind would sing to him. He sadly went into his hiding spot behind the waterfall.

Just then, he heard a voice! The Raturtafly crawled out to investigate and saw a *boy!* The poor creature was horrified! He tried to hide, but the boy had already seen him!

“Whoa, what's that?” exclaimed the boy. “Amazing! I'm gonna call you... Todd! And I'm going to live with you!”

“Aren’t you evil like the rest of the humans?” asked Todd nervously.

“No,” the boy sighed. “My name is Henry. My family was poor. They died of starvation. I live by myself in the forest nearby. I’d like to live with you. Did your family die, too?”

“Yeah,” nodded Todd. “You can live with me. As long as you don’t kill me.”

And that is how Todd and Henry became a family of their own—sort of. Some people may disagree. But either way, they lived happily ever after.

The Legend of the Daglan

(Robert)

Once upon a time there was a sorcerer named Charles. He wanted nothing more than to take the kingdom for himself. First, he started to make a spell, but he needed the feather of an eagle, some fire from a dragon, a scale from a snake, and a cool robe which he got out of his closet. So first, he went to the duck dragon for some fire, but he needed some wood. After chopping some wood in the Goron Forest, Charles went back to the duck dragon, got the fire, and went to get the feather of an eagle. He found a nest of a Great Golden Eagle. It was perfect, however it didn't have the Great Golden Eagle. He waited for one month. Finally it came! Quickly, he grabbed the feather and ran. Then Charles went to the death dugout. First, he had to climb the 2nd tallest mountain and then find his way past every sipke. He killed the great snake and took its scales. Finally, it was time. He made the potion and drank it. He looked in the mirror and his head wasn't a dragon but a duck!!! “Oh well,” he said. His power grew greatly. Then, he wiped out the entire kingdom in one night. Charles sat on the throne of the king for 100,000,000 years never to be seen again.....Until now.

The Gaphsnurt (Brayden)

Once upon a time there were people who were called the emos. They had a great enemy called the hermits who wanted to take over their castle. They came up with a plan to make a transformed animal that would be super powerful and would destroy the hermits. So they took a graph, a snake, and a turtle and formed them together into one powerful animal called gaphsnurt. They thought they would be able to defeat the hermits. They decided to sneak attack the hermits when they were having dinner in their castle. They marched over to their castle and demanded that they come down and fight. Once they saw the gaphsnurt they ran away screaming and yelling. You guys win, we surrender. They claim their kingdom for their own. They all lived happily ever after in the palace with the gaphsnurt.

Flingibat Takes a Stroll in the Park (Ezra)

One day there was an animal called the Flingibat. It was magical. It was an animal that when people were sick she could come and rescue them. All she had to do was touch her nose to him/her, and then they magically reappeared. She can even bring the dead to life. One day she was walking in the park and saw a zombie coming to life, he took off one of her wings and chopped his head off.

The Dritephant

(Rory)

Once upon a time a cat and a lion got in a huge fight. Then that day an elephant was walking by and the elephant tried to stop the fight but it was no use. The lion was about to win when the cat, lion, and elephant all became one.

The Drageaglion

(Calvin)

A long time ago, deep in the mountain range, there was a creature called the Drageaglion. Now, you might be asking yourself how did a Drageaglion come to be? Well, it all started when a dragon, an eagle and a lion fell into a lava pool. When they fell, they were fused together by the heat. This fusion created the Drageaglion, a very special animal!!

A Drageaglion is unique in more ways than just how it looks. It has the appetite of a shark. It is always hungry no matter how much it eats. A drageaglion's favorite food to eat is crickets. It takes thousands of crickets every day to fill its stomach.

The scales of a drageaglion feel feathery and hairy at the same time. The feathers help it to fly and the hair keeps it warm. The fur around its head is massive like a lion's mane, but it feels spiky. A drageaglion's teeth are very sharp, but small and short compared to its body size. Its eyes are golden with silver streaks. The amazing thing about a drageaglion is that it has three eyes, just like a bearded dragon! The third eye is a sunlight sensor. It is very important that the drageaglion sunbathe regularly to keep it warm. It is crucial that it can detect daylight and darkness with its third eye since the neck is too short for it to look straight up at the sky. A drageaglion must store enough of the sun's warmth each daytime to stay warm during the frigid nights.

As frightening as this large creature is, its personality is genuinely kind. A drageaglion will gather extra crickets to feed the smaller animals that have trouble finding food. Generosity is one of its most wonderful parts of its character. A drageaglion's perspective of the mountain's community is that every animal should be loved, cared about and treated the same way.

Drageaglions are thoughtful, comforting and compassionate. Drageaglions are friendly to everyone and make friends with everybody. Once you have a drageaglion as a friend, you will never be lonely again.

The Story of Falizion (Liam)

A long time ago in Medieval Japan, there was a samurai scientist. The scientist wanted to make an animal so ferocious that even the ninjas would be afraid of it. So he combined a falcon, a lizard, and a lion. And thus, Falizion was born. Unfortunately for the samurai, Falizion rebelled and escaped. The ninjas took him in and took care of him. Soon, though, the samurai came after him with swords and shields. One of the ninjas, named Sakiko, rode Falizion to a nearby mountain and kept it safe. The rest of the ninjas were defeated and killed. Sakiko and Falizion were all that were left of the Simana Clan. Eventually, Falizion and Sakiko got so angry that they lit torches and snuck into the village. They went to the scientist's castle while he was asleep and burned it to the ground. The villagers got very angry and killed Sakiko. The Falizion was very sad. He was so sad that he went to sleep right next to where he had died. The villagers eventually captured him. They put him in their arena and had him fight a tiger and a lion. He killed them both. Falizion escaped the arena and went to the forests. And, to this day, He is roaming the forests of Japan, looking for a friend.

The Snarkhor

(Brodie)

Once upon a time there was a shark swimming when a water snake came out of its house and threatened the shark. Instead of being scared, the shark fell in love at first sight so the snake went back in its hole.

The next day the shark brought flowers and chocolates. The next week they went out to eat and the shark proposed. The snake said, “ Yes,” and the shark bought a beautiful ring. Two months later the shark and the snake had their wedding.

After about a year, the snake and shark had a baby snark. The family of three had a very happy life. When the snark was 24, he fell in love with a horse and the exact same thing happened with the snark and the horse just like the shark and the snake. They had a wedding and then a baby. The baby was a snarkhor: part snake, part shark, and part horse.

The snarkhor accomplished great things like saving the knights and kingdom from their enemies. He also saved them from a dragon. The last 20 years of its life it made its own family of snarkhors.

The Legend of the Drowlfion and the Crogam

(Caroline)

It was twenty-years before the Drowlfion decided to get revenge. Now you may be asking yourself why would the Drowlfion want to get revenge on the Crogam. Well, it was because the Crogam had done something very wrong to the Drowlfion. It was twenty-years ago when the Crogam had broken Drowlfion's life crystal (gives you eternal life) which was the only one left in the world. The Drowlfion was furious after this happened. So, the Drowlfion had decided it was time. Then, the Drowlfion took the Crogam to the ice-cano. This is where it ends.

Or does it? The Drowlfion reaches the top of the ice-cano "It is time," said the Drowlfion. The Drowlfion, right at the strike of thunder, throws the Crogam into the ice-cano (ice-cano: a made up volcano filled with ice cold water. When your skin is touched with water you are frozen immediately and dead with the sharks that guard it.) The Drowlfion thought the Crogam was dead ... or was it?

The Wondrous Goepa

(Kaleb)

The Goepa was a mysterious animal. It didn't like people or animals and no one knew why. It seemed like it had no heart and no soul. Legend has it that the Goepa was captured for 12 years. The Goepa has a gorilla head, a cow body, and sheep legs. One day while the Goepa was hunting for food, there were people that came across him and they never saw anything like him on earth. They used a tranquilizer dart and captured him. They discovered he was strong and the people used him to carry and lift things. After a long time of being a prisoner he had enough. While he was lifting something in the seventh year the people were whipping him with whips. He didn't like that at all so he had to do something. All night he was thinking and thinking how to escape. He decided to wait and see what the patterns of the guards were. He didn't expect that some days of the week were different than others. It took him so long to memorize the patterns. It took him five years to figure it out and when it was the perfect time he broke out of his cage. But his timing was off and one of the guards noticed him because he was too loud. The Goepa raised up on his hind legs and hooved the guard and ran away. That is the legend of the Goepa.

The Shalligator

(Cooper)

One day there was a big explosion at the reactor plant that did a lot of damage to the city. After the explosion, some citizens went to see if anyone was hurt and see all the damage to the

city. While they were searching, they found a pile of rocks. A weird creature came out and somehow it was super friendly to us. The creature looked like a shark mixed with a cat mixed with an alligator. It started walking away from me, but I thought I should take it to my house to see if it was hurt. It was fine, nothing hurt.

So I wanted to see what it could do, so I took it to the beach and it turns out it can breathe underwater and on land. The next day, I decided to take it to my friend who is a vet. He was in shock when he saw it. He said he had never seen anything like it before and was interested. For some reason the shalligator (that is what I decided to call him) wanted to go to the woods, so it took him. The shalligator took me to a place I have never seen before. It turns out after the explosion a bunch of mixed animals appeared. I told the owner of the zoo who is going to be sure that they are safe. They let me keep the shalligator for finding all of the other ones. I think the shalligator wanted to be with his family, so he went with them. Now all the animals are all in the zoo living happy. THE END

Pugaccoonkitty

(Elle)

Once upon a time there were three girls. One loved cats, another loved pugs, and the other loved raccoons. One day each one of them got their dream pets to take care of. Everyday the three girls would go outside to an open field for some fresh air, enjoy the weather, and let the pets get some exercise. The girls would sit at a table and talk while the pets would go to the middle of the park to chase each other, but this time while the pets were chasing each other, a laser came down from the sky and shot right on the pet's backs and lifted them up in the air. Soon the laser stopped and went away. Up stood a cute little pugaccoonkitty. The pugacookitty had the body of a cat, ears and nose of a pug and the tail of a raccoon. The poor creature was terrified. The girls came over to where their pets were playing so they could go home and they saw the pugaccoonkitty. They were thinking about the stories their moms would tell them. A long time ago when they were little they heard stories

about animals mixing together to create one whole animal. The girls did not believe it until now. Quickly, they took the pugaccoonkitty home and made a promise not to tell anyone or show anyone their pet, or else danger might come.

The Legend of the Lachickabunin (Prabhgun)

Once there was a mysterious creature living in a cave near a village. The creature could breathe fire and had a head(chicken), body(lama), tail(bunny), horn(unicorn), and wings(bird). The people in the village didn't really know what it was so they called the Lachickabunin. Some people believed it was real, but they never really saw it. The villagers would say, "It comes out in the summer". At that time they usually stayed inside or stayed near their homes.

One day a girl named Suzie decided to go to the park after school. She played for a while. Then she heard loud footsteps stomping behind her. When she turned around, there was a 20ft creature, "AHH", she screamed! It was a monstrous beast. THE LACHICKABUNIN! She ran for her life all the way to her house to get her family while screaming for help! The villagers heard her and went out to see what was happening. They saw the Lachickabunin. The villagers were scared, but they still went to defeat the Lachickabunin. It tried to fly away, but by then Suzie and her family brought a net just in time to catch the Lachickabunin. They finally caught it after so many years (thanks to Suzie and her Family). Everybody shouted in joy that the Lachickabunin was finally defeated, but they didn't know that something more dangerous was coming their way. The End!

Zebeerwhal and Friends

(Sydney)

One time there was a zebeerwhal, stoffish, turduckseal, octachickcat, and bundophinray. Then there was a bad guy named Stingeelshark. It was a normal day. Zebeerwhal and his friends met at the park and played on the playground, but then Stingeelshark came and made fun of them and hit and kicked them. And they couldn't do anything to make him stop. Then Zebeerwhal said, "STOP!!!!!! Please, you are really really mean."

Stingeelshark said, "You guys are really lucky. I will get you later."

The next day, zebeerwhal and his friends were at the park then stingeelshark came. "Oh no! Look who's here," said Zebeerwhal and heard his friends echo, "Who? Who? Who? Who?" Zebeerwhal said, "Stingeelshark what are you doing here?"

"Well isn't it obvious, I'm just taking a walk in the park." replied Stingeelshark rudely.

"Why can't you be nice?" said Zebeerwhal.

Stingeelshark began to cry and said, "I try to but something is wrong with me and no one tells me why."

"Nothing is wrong with you. Where are your parents?" asked Zebeerwhal.

"My parents, I guess they're at home, but why do you ask?" wondered Stingeelshark

Zebeerwhal said, "because all of us are going to your house to hang out okay."

Wait, are we friends?" asked Stingeelshark.

Zebeerwhal quickly replied, "we have always been friends, Stingeelshark."

As they all started walking to Stingeelshark's house the friends were laughing and talking. Just as they were getting close neighbors heard Stingeelshark and Zebeerwhal say, "Friends now and forever! The End

The Legend of the Birbunion

(Meghan)

Once upon a time there lived a bribunioin, a king and a queen. A bribunioin is a creature that has a bird head, bunny ears, and a lion tail and body. The King was very mad at the birbunion. This is how it all went down.

The Birbunion was the king and queen's pet. Well, the birbunion is very clumsy so it was always knocking stuff over, ruining stuff and lots of other stuff. One day the bribunioin had pulled on the big dining room table cloth and the plates and other things fell to the floor. The maid had just set the table for the guests that were coming over tonight.

The king was walking by when he saw the plates and stuff all over the floor. He instantly got very mad. When the king was yelling, the maid and the queen walked by and everyone was yelling at him. When everyone was finally calmed down they said that he had one more chance to stop knocking stuff over and be less clumsy. Later that evening when all the people were over, he "accidentally" stepped on one of the lady's dresses and when that happened the lady screamed really loud. Guess who heard it. The king and queen, because it was very loud. When they heard that, guess what they said.

"You are being sent somewhere else. This is your last night in the castle. We will find someone that wants to keep you. You will be leaving in the morning."

The Bribunioin had this sad look on his face. He thought to himself, maybe I will have people that actually like me and not these mean owners. The creature lived happily ever after with his new nicer owners,

The Legend of Slosharbun

(Caleb)

Once upon a time, a sloth and a bunny were walking in the forest. They were best friends. It was a very hot day and they jumped into the sea to cool off. As they were splashing around a hungry shark ate them! There was a magician who was practicing spells and he saw the whole thing. Trying to help, he shouted the first thing that came to his mind. “Slo...Shar..Bun”. It was the beginning of each of the animals' names. He did not mean to use magic, but he was waving his magic wand when he shouted. He was amazed when he saw a shark with a sloth body and bunny ears climb out of the sea. He was astonished when he saw that the shark could hop and breathe out of the water and was fast with large claws. The Slosharbun walked to a nearby castle where it heard commotion. It saw some bandits who were trying to take money and other possessions from the castle. The Slosharbun ran to help the knights trying to fight the bandits, but the knights got beat up and could not do anything. The Slosharbun fought off the bandits chasing them away. The queen was so excited and from that day on, the Slosharbun guarded the castle. The End.

The Legend of the Heaglesh

(Reeve)

In a distant land far away there was a pond with a surface as clear as crystal. A herd of horses drank here. One day as they were drinking, an eagle flew down from the sky and took a fish from the pond for its lunch. The spirit of these three animals combined and a strange animal was born. The heaglesh had the wings of an eagle, the head and body of a horse, scales along its leg, and the tail of a fish. It had the ability to swim through the water, fly through the air, and run on the ground. This creator would find people on a quest if it thought they had noble intentions and lead them on their way. It is said that once you saw this animal all of your future

journeys would be a success. The heaglesh was often put in paintings with famous explorers showing them the way. It is most remembered for helping a young lost girl find her way home. The little girl was lost in the woods where the heaglesh lived. The heaglesh found her and took her on its back and flew her to her village. The village soon grew to have many brave explorers that had seen the heaglesh bring the young girl home. That was the last time the Heaglesh was ever seen in the open again. It still roams the forest it was formed in.

The Life of Dradogan (Nolen)

Once upon a time there was a dog, a bird, a dragon, and a flamingo. They all were drinking out of a water hole when a radioactive bucket spilled into the water. The dragon ate them, and they merged together and there was a dradogan. He was roaming around and found a knight. They fought and the knight won, but he spread the dradogan. He let him be his pet and attack anyone that got in his way. One day the kingdom got attacked and the knight and dradogan saved the kingdom. The next day dradogan got knighted by the king. The END!

The Griftijer (Aaron)

One time there was a griffin, a tiger, and a giraffe. The griffin and the tiger met in the deserted jungle. There were no other animals in the jungle, or they thought. So they wanted to make a new population. Then, they had a baby called the Grifger. Five years later the Grifger was wandering in the jungle and found a plain. There was a giraffe and the two fell in love. Then, they had babies. That is how the Griftijer was created.

The Drox (Jacob)

Once upon a time there was a creature that people think a witch created. The reason is because a hunter saw one and shot it. The shot didn't faze the creature. The hunter shot it again and again. Finally, it dropped to the ground. The hunter looked at it and was shocked. It was a snake, fox, and dragon mixed together. To this day it is the only drox ever killed.

The Lion Wing (Hunter)

Once upon a time there was a Lion Wing. Everyone in the town feared him. He would rob people left and right. A brave knight by the name of Hunter set a trap for the Lion Wing. It worked! He caught the beast. He would let the beast go if it fought in the war. The beast said, "Yes." He was the lowest rank and was made fun of. The first battle came. He fought hard. He got promoted to be able to lead the charge, and he took out the general. He was the hero of the battle. No one ever attacked the town again.

Kitalope and the Rhiner (Alyssa)

Once upon a time there was a Mythical world where all of the creatures that lived there were no like the others. The Creatures were called: Clouderpuff, Sturdle, Snakeosaurus, Zbwaff, Winger, and the two that absolutely despised each other The Kitalope and the Rhiner.

They would fight every single day. One day one of the creatures had an idea and huddled together so Kitalope and Rhiner could not hear them. "What if Clouderpuff, Snakeosaurus and Winger both keep Rhiner away from Kitalope and Sturdle, and I will keep Kitalope away from Rhiner," said Zbwaff.

So they did just that for countless days and soon enough they forgot they ever met. They became friends once more, but once again they fought and fought till the whole Mythical land

was nothing but Chaos. Until humans discovered the mythical world and took some of the animals captive.

They took everyone except Kitalope and Rhiner.

“ I need to Get them back,” said Rhiner.

“ No, I need to get them back!” Kitalope Fought back.

“ STOP,” Rhiner cried, “we are fighting again. We need to work together to get our friends back!”

Kitalope agreed and they set off.

Soon they found them and took the other creatures back to the mythical land. They all lived happily ever after. THE END

Snakadiledog

(Chance)

Once upon a time there was a very interesting animal called the Snakadiledog. It lived in the islands of mythical creatures. It was born from a crocodile mom and a snake dad. When he was born he was a crocodile and a snake plus another animal a dog and that's how he became the Snakadiledog. On the islands, the Snakadiledog goes up on the volcanos waiting for prey to eat and jump off the volcano and eat them.

The Story of the Doduck

(Noah)

One upon a time there were three friends. One is a duck, one is a dog, and one is a fox. They were playing tag and ran so far that they got to a mountain. They thought it was a mountain, but it was not a mountain. It was a volcano. The volcano started erupting, and they were on it. They all huddled together and then rolled down the volcano. Then a very strange animal formed.

It formed the doduck. They said, "How do we play tag now?" They all cried. A scientist found them. They ran tests on him and then sadly he died. In time, another doduck was formed and then, many more doducks were formed. Doducks eventually took over the world. The End

The Monbunele (Cali)

Once upon a time there were two kids, Adah and Noah, they loved to explore. Their dad didn't care where they explored except for the magic forest. He said, "There are magical monsters in the forest." Since Adah and Noah were little they didn't think much about it, but when they were older they already explored everything they needed. Noah said, "let's go to the magic forest while dad is sleeping", and adah agreed they wanted something new. They had to get packed first though, so they packed a flashlight, water bottle, map, and food. Adah brought her stuffed animal Geoff, her giraffe, but what Noah didn't know is there is a pocket in the giraffe and she has never told anyone what's inside. They went into the forest and it seemed like a normal forest. There were bugs, plants, and trees. Everything was all normal until they heard big footsteps. They look behind themselves and it's THE MONBUNELE! Adah said, "aww it's so cute" but just as she said that it let out a big growl. It had sharp pointy teeth with bunny ears, body shaped as a monkey, arms legs and nose shaped as an elephant. It started trying to stomp on them but Adah suddenly reached for her toy and pulled out a knife and chased the Monbunele for it to go away. They ran out of the forest and promised to always listen to their dad.

The Snogle

(Jack)

One day a snake(head), a wolf(body), and an eagle(wings) got into a fight. During the fight a wizard from the castle cast a spell on them. Then, when they finished the fight, they were combined together. Thus, the Snogle was born. The Snogle has caused destruction to the kingdom since the day it was born. The king tried to stop it, but it was too powerful. The king sent his army to defeat, but it defeated them in an hour. The king didn't know what to do so he asked another kingdom to help them, but they said no. The king evacuated the kingdom.

The Snogle had nothing to do so it ventured off into the woods in search of a new kingdom. After many months, it finally came across a new kingdom. This kingdom was the one the other king went to to ask for help, but they said no. The Snogle then started causing destruction to the kingdom and didn't know what to do. So the king went to the other king and asked for help. Since the other king knew how big of a threat the Snogle was, he helped them and together they sent their armies. It was a tough fight, however, they won in the end. Little did they know the Snogle had children. That's why it was destroying the kingdoms because it thought they were a threat to its children.

Years passed and the kingdoms joined together and made one big kingdom, but now the Snogle's children grew up and were seeking revenge.

Sixth Grade

Mr. Betts

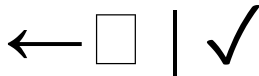
The Non-Existing Normal

~Aj F.

“If you try to be normal, it will not give you freedom of pain; it will only bring you more pain”(anonymous writer). What the writer means by this is that there is no normal and that it will hurt to look for something that does not exist. The reason there is no normal life is that God made us to be our own, so we all have different personalities, and we are all weird in our own way. This is important because people make fun of you because they think you're weird, but really they are giving you a compliment instead of an insult. If you continue to try and be normal, it will not give you freedom of pain; it will only make you feel more pain. In conclusion, normal does not exist; there is only your unique yourself.



Incorrect | Correct



Man's Bestfriend

~Henrik G.

Your dog will want to have a friendship with you, while your human friends might not. This means that your dog looks upon you as their guardian, their caretaker; they love you more than anything in the world, while humans may not. I would encourage an emotionally hurt person to get a dog. My personal connection to the word friendship is my puggle, Scooby; Scooby and I have a very good friendship. The word friendship is important to me because I have many friends, and I am very thankful for all of them. The word friendship is also important to me because I like to have people around me. I would like the reader to remember that friendship is important.



Having Faith in the Unknown

~Marion H.

Have you ever done a trust fall? A trust fall is where somebody falls backward, and then somebody else has to catch them without dropping them. The person falling believes that the other person will catch them and not drop them -- they have faith in that person. When you have faith in something, you trust that thing or person will not fail you. You might not even know what they are planning to do. They might be thinking that they wouldn't catch you, but you have faith that they will catch you. Faith is defined as "complete trust or confidence in someone or something" In that definition, there is no hesitation; there is only trust and confidence. Personally, I have faith in God. I believe that He sent His Son to die and rise for me so that I might be forgiven and saved. Even though I don't know God's plans for me, I still have faith that God will do what is right. Also, I have experienced other people having faith in me. People have faith in me even if I don't realize it. They believe that I can do something even if I believe I can't. For example, my parents have faith that I will do my chores every day, and my teachers have faith in me that I will get my homework done. Things like this happen every day in our lives, and we don't realize them. Faith is a gift from God. But having faith is like a trust fall; you don't know what will happen.



Perseverance Personality

~Lauren K.

Albert Einstein said, “Success comes from curiosity, concentration, perseverance, and self-criticism.” In the world, perseverance is seen as strength and courage to push through obstacles and not stop. This word is meaningful to me because I play lots of sports, and I know I need the perseverance to play my best. This word is important to me because it gives me hope in



things that I may be struggling with. It is also important to me with my music because when I am struggling with a piece I am playing, I know I can do it if I just keep working on it. I want my readers to remember that there is always hope and never quit.

The Meaning of Forgiveness

~Josh M.

Do you forgive people a lot or get hurt by someone and need to forgive them? Lewis B. Smedes says, “To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you.” Smedes was saying that forgiving someone or being forgiven is freedom from emotional pain. That is why I think forgiveness is the most important word. I know what freedom forgiveness

gives me. Anyone who is unforgiving should work to try to forgive people easier. Forgiveness is important to me because if I did something wrong, I could ask for forgiveness. Forgiveness is also important for other people because God forgives our sins every day so that we can come into heaven. At the end of the day, forgiveness is the most important word because it will get you to heaven and free you from your sin and sadness.



Having Respect

~Ryan P.

If you don't respect others, they will most likely not respect you. I found out that if everyone respects you, it is like getting their trust. If you respect someone and they respect you, you gain their trust, and they gain your trust. Respect is important to me because if you have no respect, you have no manners, and you're usually rude. So respect others because they will

respect you back. Remember, respect is very important; even if you don't like a person, still respect them.



Love One Another

~Calista S.

Have you ever loved someone so much that you would be willing to die for them? Love is too strong to be described in words, so it is described in actions. Love is a very powerful, devoted connection between two people, each willing to risk their lives for the other. Love is the most powerful word in the entire world because, without it, the world would be chaotic, and people would develop a deep hatred for one another.

This word is notable to me because without the people who love me, I would be lost. I would have no one to encourage me to persevere. My life would not be worth living if there were no love to cover sin. I would rather live in a world surrounded by optimists than people who

hate. The message for the reader to remember is to love one another because the world would simply not be the same without love.

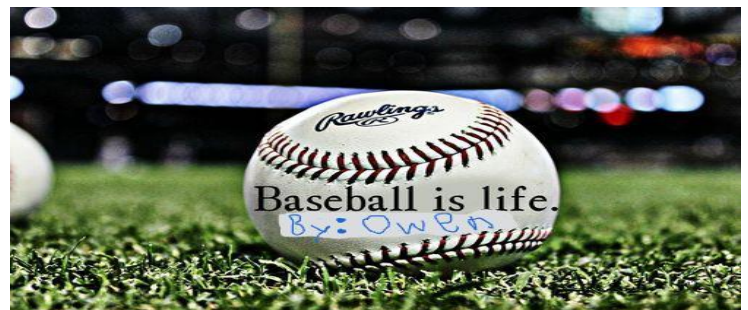
Baseball is Life

~Owen T.

Jaja Q says, “ Life is like a baseball game. When you think a fastball is coming, you gotta be ready to hit the curve.” The meaning of this is that life is like a baseball game because you never know what will happen. In a baseball game, when you are batting, you don’t know if a fastball or a curveball is coming. This is what the world is like when you face different challenges that cause you to use different strategies to overcome hard times and problems. When we use God’s Word like a baseball, we don’t have to worry about what will happen, but we need to trust that God is all-knowing and has a plan for us.

It doesn't matter if the call is safe or out. When I said it doesn't matter if the call is safe or out, we always don't get the right call from an umpire. When we ask God, he may not always answer us the way we want Him to or give us something else. We should not question or argue with the umpire or God. We know life may not be good at times, but God will help us.

The game of baseball teaches you how to work through challenging times. We can get through those challenging times not alone but with one another in trusting and believing in God’s Word and that he has a plan for us.



When you play baseball, do not get discouraged if you don't catch the ball or get a hit. It is just like in our life; we should not get discouraged but trust God in all things. Isaiah 41:10 states, "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." The main thing to remember is that if we don't do something right, we should not be dismayed, but God will strengthen us in the days of our life.

The "You" in Uniqueness

~Josie W.



Psalms 139:14 says, "I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are Your works; my soul knows it very well." In today's world, people want to be like everyone else and fit in but not stand out! I feel that being unique is a gift because we all are different, which makes us extra special! Sadly, not many people think that being unique is a good thing. We need to appreciate being unique! Have you ever been walking in a busy city and looked at all the people surrounding you and noticed none are exactly alike? That's a good thing and certainly not bad! Sometimes we use uniqueness as a negative word, saying that we aren't beautiful or good enough. Being unique helps me to realize that we all are beautiful! It is important to stand out and appreciate the "you" in uniqueness!

The Joy in Life

~Amelia H.

Joseph Campbell wrote, “We cannot cure the world of sorrows, but we can choose to live in joy.” Joy is the best word because it could bring back joyful times for people and bring back memories. This is why I chose this word because it brings back memories of when I was little, and I would go to Florida because that was where I was most happy and had the most joy, so this is why I chose the word “joy.” It is the best to enjoy the little memories

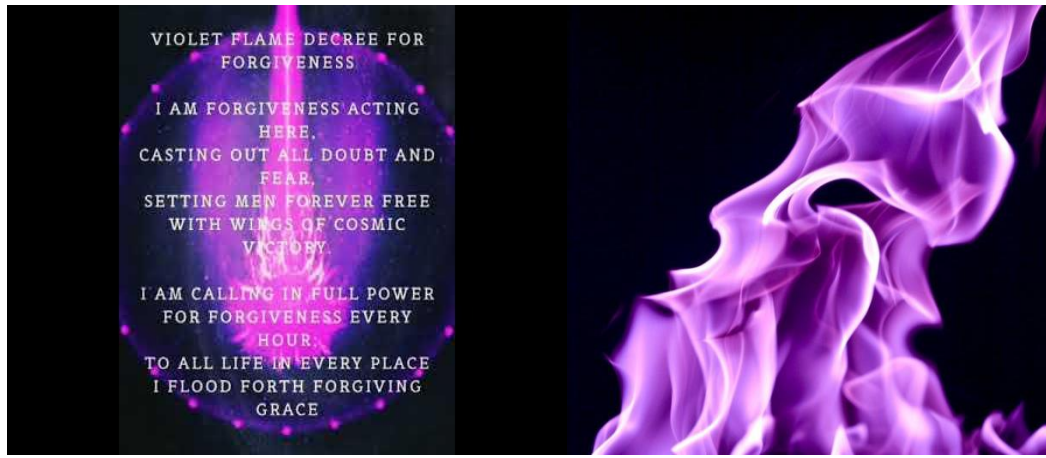


The Fire of Forgiveness

~Wyatt K.

Bryant H. McGill once wrote, “There is no love without forgiveness, and there is no forgiveness without love.” Take rabbits, for example; forgiveness is an extremely powerful thing that even the rabbit knows well; it can forgive even the worst mistakes. Other people think that forgiveness equals weakness, but the tables have turned; forgiveness is our greatest strength in terms of spiritual power. It is better to forgive someone than to punish them badly; forgiveness

leads us on a path closer to God's light. Therefore, it is stronger and more powerful to offer forgiveness and love instead of hatred and punishment.



Think

~Dylan L

“The people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones who do” (Albert Einstein). Wishes, dreams, hopes, we all try to reach it, but never think how beforehand. The best way is to consider how and when to.

I have to think every day about when homework is due, the times I have to help out at the restaurant, coding class, etc. I have always thought about homework. If I'd never thought about homework until it was due, probably half of my grades would be D's and 0's!

I love math, and math requires you to memorize many formulas and meanings and think about how to solve the equations using the procedures, even just understanding the problem!

All in all, thinking is the root of all knowledge; you would be able to do very simple tasks without thinking, like eat, breathe, or move but not talk, solve, run or even know what to do. Now think about it, what would you be if you couldn't think?

Forgiveness

~Rashiya T.

“To forgive is to set a prisoner free, and you will discover that the prisoner was you” (Lewis B.Smedes). The reason why I picked the word “forgiveness” is because if you don’t forgive someone, you will start to hate the person more and more when you think about what they did to you or the other way around, but the sooner you forgive someone, the sooner you can move on with life. Even if you don't want to speak to the person ever again, you can forgive them so that you and that person can move on with life. You also should forgive because God forgives us every day for the sins we do; we are not perfect, and we all sometimes need forgiveness. To show us that we did something wrong and that we wouldn't do it again because it hurt you or that person, so that's why I think it is important to forgive. If you forgive, you can set a person free, and that person is you.

Reading Is Amazing!

~Lilly W.

Frederick Douglass wrote, “Once you learn how to read, you will be forever free.” This means that once you can read, you can do many more things that you wouldn’t be able to do if you didn't know how to read. This quote means that reading will help you be free from being bored. I think that reading is an important word in my life. It is an important word because I read every day. If I'm bored, I just read. It is really fun to read because you can read books about adventures, fantasy, or anything you like. If you don’t like to read, maybe you just haven’t found the right type of book. Reading is



not just for one person, it is for everyone, and it is more than just looking at words; it is connecting with what is happening in the book.

The Fantastic Word: Faith

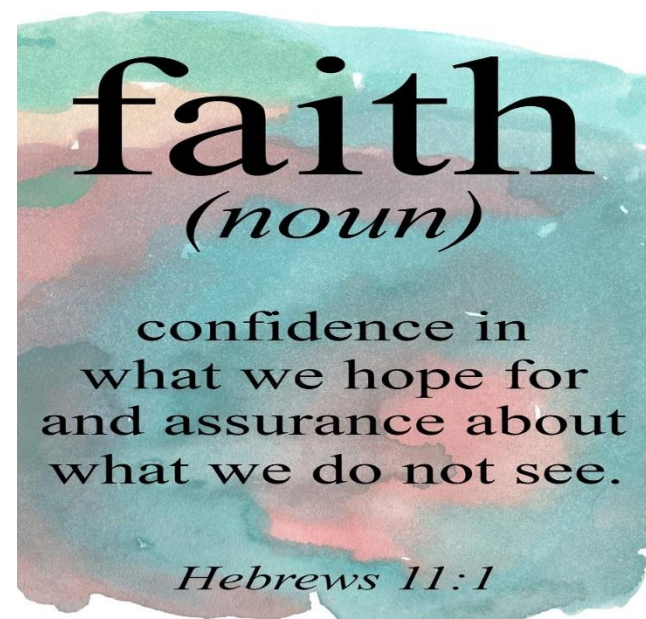
~Bradley W.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, “Faith is like taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase.” Nowadays, people think faith only talks about religion, but faith means more than religion. Faith is a way of trusting people around you or trusting yourself, as Dr. King had stated. These all prove that faith is a very strong and meaningful word.

It is important to have faith in others because they might not trust you if you don't trust them. It can be hard for people to trust others because they know that everyone does bad things, but faith is a way of breaking that barrier of only trusting yourself. It is also important to have faith in people because you want others to have faith in you when you need it.

Another reason why I chose the word faith is that it reminds me of my Lord and Savior. I have faith in Him so that I will have everlasting life in heaven. The Apostle Paul wrote in the 11th chapter in his letter to the Hebrews: “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” We can't see many things, but we have faith that they are there, just like how I have faith that God is there!

I chose the word faith because I feel it is important that people can trust themselves. Even though everyone messes up sometimes, that doesn't mean you shouldn't have faith in yourself or someone else.



In conclusion, faith is a very important and meaningful word, and I feel that everyone should have faith in Jesus, others, and themselves!

Curiosity Is a Magical Thing

~Teagan W.

“Wonder; Question; Journey beyond. The truth is ever-blooming, and curiosity is a magical thing” (Laura Jaworski). Curiosity is the most important trait. Curiosity is important because someone without curiosity would be colorless. I feel like curiosity is one of the most important traits to have in your personality. If I didn’t have curiosity, I don’t know what my life would be like. Ever since I was really little, I’ve been very curious to know the answers to questions even some people didn’t know the answers to. But I wanted to figure them out. My family always says that I have a curious mind and want to know everything there is to know. This is why curiosity is so important. I would be a completely different person without it. There were and are so many questions that I wanted to get the answers to. My mind is always filled with questions like, “How? Why? Where? When? or Who?” I love being curious, and I want to be able to share my curiosity with others. Curiosity may have killed the cat, but it brings humans to life.

Seventh Grade

Mrs. Hasamear

What Does God Say About Abortion?

~James A.

Did you know that more than 62 million unborn babies have been murdered since the infamous 1973 Roe v Wade trial? (Dorman). Society scorns early civilizations that sacrificed babies to their gods (Sue); however, Americans today have murdered millions of unborn babies for convenience. Scripture teaches that life is life. Therefore, abortion is a sin.

What are some reasons to have children? You want company? You want support when you're old? How about... God commands it? According to Genesis 28:3, ““God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you, that you may become a company of peoples”” (*English Standard Version*, Genesis 28:3). God’s instructions and promise to mankind are clear. Have children. When people decide that having children is too difficult and abortion is the only choice, their happiness becomes their idol.

Even when abortion seems the best escape, God can rescue us from our sorrow. Psalm 41:2 explains, “...the Lord protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies” (*English Standard Version*, Psalm 41:2). God explains these wonders of His mercy. His power and amazing love can save us from any problems we encounter.

Lastly, unborn babies are clearly alive in the womb from conception, where life is present and precious. Even before birth, babies are God’s gifts, chosen by Him to demonstrate His glory. Luke 1:41 states, “And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb” (*English Standard Version*, Luke 1:41). In Jeremiah 1:5, God enlightens Jeremiah,

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations” (*English Standard Version*, Jeremiah 1:5). Mary visits Elizabeth during their pregnancies. John, in the womb, senses Jesus’s presence and jumps for joy. John is alive, having faith and joy before birth. Before that, God came to Jeremiah, having chosen him before he was born. He knows us, too, before our birth.

In the end, abortion is evil, and every life is valuable. God tells us to have children, and we are blessed for life in receiving this Word. God can save us from all perils, no matter how great. God chooses babies in the womb, where they are most definitely alive. We should do everything possible to help society understand. Even the smallest things, the littlest lives, can help change the world.

Assisted Suicide

~Isaak B.

Euthanasia or physician-assisted suicide is when action is taken to end the life of a person who is experiencing long-term illness. The act of euthanization is horrible because the unconscious person just dies. People deserve more than this. The Bible says, “... the Lord protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies” (*English Standard Version*, Psalm 41.2). In conclusion, only God should have the power to decide who dies and when they die.

Doctors in many countries give families the opportunity to euthanasia. Euthanasia has been legalized in many different countries and 11 states. (*Britannica.org*). Laws in most countries prevent any abuse toward these practices, and nowadays, high prevention is in place to stop this horrible act entirely. People should look over the law and eliminate this horrendous act in hospitals.

Some people who are sick and depressed give their consent to their doctors. A study in Oregon showed depressed patients just allowed consent to be euthanized. God says about suicide, “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” (*English Standard Version*, Isaiah 41:10). God is always with you, even if you are depressed and in pain.

Most people go into comas from trauma or swelling. Doctors should be trying to help the person in the coma, but sometimes doctors see that and are already thinking about “pulling the plug.” “No man has power to retain the spirit or power over the day of death. There is no discharge from war, nor will wickedness deliver those who are given to it. (*English Standard Version*, Ecclesiastes 8:8). We should try to save the life of every human being possible.

In conclusion, only God should have the power to determine who dies and when. Assisted suicide shouldn't be legal in countries, suicidal patients need help, and everyone in a coma is still alive and should be treated that way. “Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments dependeth the whole law and the prophets.” (*English Standard Version*, Matthew 22: 35-40). Everyone should care for each other no matter how hard it can get.

Blessed from Birth

~Bradley D.

I've seen stories on the news about abortion protests. I've never known anyone who used abortion on their babies, and hopefully, I never will. I'm just confused why the word *abortion* even exists. Making unborn babies not live? Just why? I was going to be born with a cleft palate and a cleft lip, I did, and was I aborted? No, I wasn't. Still, maybe someone else would do an abortion if their baby had that. “... the Lord protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies”(English Standard Version, Psalm

41.2). Those words mean you are a blessing, blessed with life, and a blessing to others. Abortion is wrong, and we need to act now.

One reason abortion is wrong is that it kills an unborn baby. The Bible says, “You shall not murder” (*English Standard Version*, Exodus 20.13). The fifth commandment says not to murder anyone, including unborn babies. Unborn babies may not be born, but you are still killing their chance to shine in the world.

A second reason abortion is wrong is that it isn't God's will for unborn babies to be killed. Jesus states, “...it is not the will of my Father... these little ones should perish” (*English Standard Version*, Mathew 18.14). God never wanted abortion, and he wants it to stop. We should help our Father in Heaven stop abortion and let his creation shine.

A third reason abortion is wrong is that killing the innocent and the righteous is sinful. The Bible states, “...do not kill the innocent and righteous...” (*English Standard Version*, Exodus 23.7). If an unborn baby is going to be born into a Christian family, that infant is a believer. If you kill a believer, that is just wrong!

All in all, abortion is wrong and should be stopped. Abortion kills an unborn baby, God didn't want infants to be killed, and killing infants is a sin. We need to stop abortion, and its end needs to happen now.

God's Word Against Abortion

~Caleb D.

Over 1.2 million unborn babies were killed in 2021 (*The Guardian Nigeria News*). Nearly ¼ (23.7%) of American women go through with killing their unborn babies by the age of 45. Abortion is evil and goes against God's Word. Psalm 41:2 states, “...the Lord protects and keeps him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the

will of his enemies”(*English Standard Version*, Psalm 41). Abortion is wrong, and people don't actually understand how terrible it is.

Abortion is the act of killing an unborn baby. Abortion is a procedure to end a pregnancy. It uses medicine or surgery to remove the embryo or fetus and placenta from the uterus. A licensed healthcare company does the procedure. The constitution says that it is legal for women to abort their unborn children. The law says women can choose to have an abortion, but the lives of unborn babies should not be taken. An unborn baby has no right to live. "...the right to life doesn't exist in the U.S. Constitution". No matter what age, a human being should have a chance to live. They are blessings that people can take away whenever they see fit, and that is wrong.

Some people think abortion is not always wrong. "Abortion is killing a baby. But I'm not saying it's always wrong" ("Understand the News."). No matter what anybody thinks, abortion is murder, and murder is wrong. Murdering a human is against God's commandments. Taking a life should not be legal; it is immoral.

Abortion is murdering a baby, which goes against God's Word because God did not make us so that we should destroy each other and kill an innocent child. Having children is God's Command and does not go with what he says. Abortion needs to be stopped and made illegal.

A Gift Given to You

~**Aiden E.**

About 5 million people that are alive today are adopted. I have an adopted friend, and now and again, he goes to see his biological parents for a few months. When he comes back, it's like we adopted him. He hangs out with us a lot, and he does things with us. He is a blessing to me and others. Like God said in Psalm 41:2, "The Lord protects him and keeps him alive; he is

called a blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies.” Therefore he is a blessing, just like everyone else.

When people put someone up for adoption, they might not want their kid or not be ready for the baby. Putting them up for adoption is a way of giving the child to someone who wants a child. Someone who wants a blessing from God because maybe they can't have a kid. Everyone is a blessing. As God showed us in Psalm 41:2, “The Lord protects him and keeps him alive; he is called a blessed in the land; you do not give you to the will of his enemies.”

Although you might have to put a child up for adoption because you're not ready, it is still bad in a way because you are giving away a blessing God has sent to you directly. If God wanted that person for someone else, he would've given it to them, but he chose to give the blessing to you.

God has given everyone gifts and blessings, so if someone were to put someone up for adoption, they would be giving away their gift from God and not appreciating the gift they got from God. If you were to have a baby, it would be yours, which would be a blessing given to you, so if you give your blessing away to someone else, you would be showing that you do not care about the gift that God gave you.

In conclusion, everyone is blessed and a blessing to everyone around them. God makes them special in their own way as well. Everyone is a gift from God. No matter how you look or act, you're still a blessing, just like everyone else in this world.

God's Child

~Lilly G.

On July 29, 2020, Zealand Labrant was born at Akron General Medical Center. He was in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit for two weeks, diagnosed with Jaundice. Jaundice is a disease and has a 60% wave on newborns. Birth effects are yellow skin and white eyes (March of Dimes). Psalm 41:2 helped me understand how to pray for Labrant, “The Lord will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he shall be blessed upon the earth: and thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies” (Psalm 41.2). This verse proves that Labrant's life has value and abortion is wrong.

God says bodies are temples. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 reminded me that this is true, “Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). God restates why bodies are temples. God didn't set babies on earth to be killed, especially by the mother's decision. Every life is blessed and is a blessing.

Dreading if your child will live is the worst feeling but having to kill your child because it isn't healthy is worse. Jerimiah 1.5 brought me back to why you shouldn't participate in abortion, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you before you were born I set you apart, I appointed you as a prophet to the nations” (Jeremiah 1:5). God didn't create people to be killed. Abortion should be illegal. Children are blessings. Taking, for example, maybe two minutes holding a child, moms wouldn't take that back.

God loves us and would never want an abortion. 1 Corinthians 13:4-5 states that everything is love, “Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy; it does not boast; it is not proud. It does not dishonor others; it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs” (1 Corinthians 13:4-5). God willingly loves us and gives us gifts throughout life. Children are blessings; we should love as God loves us.

Abortion is wrong. God loves creations, days are blessings, and bodies are temples. Handling babies is hard, but it’s worth every second; moms struggle with keeping their kids in the hospital. It is stressful for the family because some moms want to quit.

Unborn yet Living

~Grayson G.

I’ve never met a person who had an abortion, but I know about people who almost did. My parents knew someone who was going to have an abortion, but my mom convinced her otherwise. Psalm 41:2 says, “... the Lord protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies”. This talks about how every life is important, and that God protects all life. Abortion is when they either chemically kill their baby or they use surgery. Around 62.5 million babies from 1973 to 2020 have been killed from abortion, and since 1997, the CDC never confirmed how many abortions there were, which could mean even more lives were taken from abortion (O’Bannon). I believe that abortion is bad for people because it goes against God and his Word.

Psalm 139:13-15 talks about God's active role in creating humans, it says, “¹³ For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb. ¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths

of the earth” (*English Standard Version*. Psalm 139:13-16). God actively made every person, born and unborn, so when people get an abortion, they aren’t just killing a baby, they are killing God’s work. All of God’s work deserves to be seen, so we should not abort children.

God says that children are a gift from God, and their lives should not be taken. Psalm 127:3 says,”³Behold, Children are a heritage from the Lord, the Fruit of the womb a reward” (Psalm 127:3). God doesn’t just give us children, he gives us a gift that is passed on from generation to generation, so when you kill that gift, it doesn’t get passed down.

Abortion is it is murder, and Exodus 20:13 says,” you shall not murder” (Exodus 20:13). Since murder goes against the 5th commandment, it is a sin.

In the end, Abortion goes against God’s plan. Abortion goes against the 5th commandment, God tells us that children are a gift, and you kill God’s creation when you Abort a baby. That’s why abortion is considered murder and should be stopped.

Adoption vs. Abortion

~Ava G.

In the United States, many women choose abortion over adoption. There are more than 600,000 abortions compared to 15,000 infant adoptions each year (*Deaconess*). These women ignore the words of Psalm 41:2, which says, “The Lord protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies...(English standard Version, Psalms 41:2).” Rather than thinking of their baby and trusting God to take care of them through adoption, they only think of themselves and justify abortion by telling themselves that abortions are less expensive, more private, and less emotional.

“Women who have abortions think it is cheaper than adoption, but it is more expensive. When a woman places her child up for adoption, the adoptive family pays the costs of her

pregnancy and delivery. If a woman decides to get an abortion, she usually has to pay for it herself' (Deaconess, 2021). Also, an abortion costs the life of her child that God gave her, which is priceless.

Many women are afraid that others will find out about their pregnancy and think that having an abortion is more private than an adoption. According to the Deaconess Adoption website, adoption can maintain secrecy, especially if the woman uses an agency.

Finally, women believe that there is less emotional stress since abortion happens more quickly than an adoption. However, many women have mental and emotional problems after an abortion (Deaconess, 2021). They have taken a precious life that God gave to them. As God says in Psalm 127:3, "Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward."

Women who have abortions do not realize that the gift of life is a blessing rather than a curse and that God will take care of their child through adoption. Instead, they think of themselves and justify abortion by telling themselves that abortions are less expensive, more private, and less emotional for them. Think before you do something you cannot undo.

A Blessed End: Euthanasia Is Not the Answer

~Dean H.

Euthanasia is when a doctor assists a person who chooses to die. While it's illegal in the US, the Dutch, who have legalized it, had 3,600 cases in 1995 ("Euthanasia...A Bible Study"). The world believes a person can choose death if they feel burdensome. But the Bible states, "...the Lord protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies" (*English Standard Version*, Psalm 41.2). God created everyone, protects everyone, and keeps everyone alive. However, destroying what He created is working Satan's will to separate us from Him eternally!

To begin, euthanasia is sinful because death is sinful. “Euthanasia” is from two Greek words (“eu” and “thanatos”), meaning “good death” (“Euthanasia”). However, Paul writes, “...the wages of sin is death...” (Romans 6.23). Sin leads to death. The only way to die a “good death” is to die believing in Jesus.

Secondly, God is the one who keeps us alive. When describing the LORD’s power, Isaiah writes, “[The LORD said,] ‘...To gray hairs I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save’” (Isaiah 46.4). God created us in His image. He decides whether to “rescue us from every evil” or to “give us a blessed end.” Even if a person feels burdensome, that person is still made in God’s image and is someone for whom Jesus died.

Finally, the pain of this life isn’t permanent for Christians. In John’s vision of the new creation, he writes, “[A voice said,] ‘...[God] will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore...’” (Revelation 21.4). All pain of this world will be forgotten in the resurrection. Although euthanasia may seem merciful at the moment, this is a body that will rise on the Last Day and be reunited with a soul.

In summary, euthanasia is sinful. This is true because death is sinful, God sustains life, and pain is temporary. In one of his hymns, Samuel Rodigast wrote,

“What God ordains is always good:

Though I the cup am drinking

Which savors now of bitterness,

I take it without shrinking.

For after grief

God gives relief,

My heart with comfort filling
And all my sorrow stilling.” (*Hymnary.org*, v. 5)

Abortion

~Emily K.

I had no idea what the word “Abortion” meant until six years ago. I went with my mother to stand outside our church to pray for unborn babies and mothers. I asked my mom to explain why we were there a little more. She told me, “We need to pray for mothers to make the right decision.”

“What decision?” As a young child, I did not know about this horrible thing they were doing.

“Well, some mothers, who aren’t ready to have children, are told they can make a decision. They are told to choose life or abortion. Abortion is when mothers kill their babies before they have them. We should choose life because God tells us, ‘Before I formed you in the womb I knew you before you were born I set you apart’ (*English Standard Version*, Jeremiah 1:5).”

My heart was crushed, but the verse also gave me comfort. I am thankful that my mother is a great role model and defends life. I, too, want to tell others that although some think life in the womb is worthless, abortion is wrong.

God clearly states that life is valuable in Psalm 139:13, “For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb.” Even before we were born, we were loved and made special and unique.

God states in Jeremiah 29:11, “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.” He has a plan for all of us, and we don’t have the right to take away that plan.

Children are a gift from God. Psalm 127:3 says, “Behold; children are a heritage from the Lord.” God says that children are a gift and should be honored and cherished.

Although some may think life is worthless, God says that all life is valuable. He says a lot about life, but the three main points are: Life is valuable; He has a plan for all of us, and We are a gift from God. As God says, we should honor and cherish life. We have been given the strength to defend and protect life for His sake. “... the Lord protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies.” (*English Standard Version* Psalm 41:2).

Blessed for Life

~**Andrew L.**

Most people think that euthanasia is a good thing that ending people's lives if they are in pain helps them, but most people don’t think how much impact that person could have on you or your family members if they didn't die. My grandpa was very sick and kept on falling over. We prayed and prayed until he fell ill to Covid and died. He fought very strongly and was able to stay alive longer, but he was slowly dying. My family never got to visit him for a long time, so the only thing we could do was pray. We never thought about euthanasia, but we could hope the pain goes away. The Lord protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies” (*English Standard Version* Psalm 41:2.).

Many people die each year from euthanasia, children and adults, people with cancer, and even people who have a college degree. In California 2016-2017, 592 people died from PAS

(PAS stands for Physician-assisted- suicide) death program, just California. 49.3% were females, 50.7% were male, 47.7 percent had college degrees 63.1 percent had cancer (ProCon.org). Many people take their lives away because of pain, but if they could just wait and hold on, maybe it would go away tomorrow.

Many people take their lives just because of pain, but there is so much they could do if they didn't kill themselves. People take away their lives and think they're useless, but if they were to wait maybe a week a month, they could be fine. As of January 2019, there was an estimated 16.9 million people who survived cancer, and to think how much that could go up if the people who had cancer didn't commit euthanasia. (National Cancer Institute September).

It's not just America that has had euthanasia, but many countries are starting to legalize euthanasia, including Belgium, Luxembourg, Canada, New Zealand, Spain, the Netherlands, and Colombia. (NBC News). If euthanasia keeps growing, many countries will have legalized euthanasia.

Euthanasia is horrible and kills many people each year. All types of people die from euthanasia and don't try to get rid of it. Euthanasia is terrible and should never be used, no matter how much pain you are going through.

Life by Adoption

~Grace P.

Each year, there are 1.3 million abortions, and only 4% of women with unwanted pregnancies place their child through the process of adoption ("U.S. Adoption Statistics"). I think that this is wrong because the unborn baby could have a loving family if given a chance at

adoption. The Bible says, "... the Lord protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies" (*English Standard Version*, Psalm 41.2). This shows that God loves us and cares about everyone's lives.

Each of our lives matters to God. Just because someone needs to be adopted or needs a foster home doesn't mean they should be forgotten. "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations"(*English Standard Version*, Jeremiah 1.5). God had a plan for all people, even before creation. He knows what our purpose in life is.

Children who need a home to live in shouldn't be considered helpless; they should be given a chance at life and an opportunity to spread God's word. The Bible states, "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose"(*English Standard Version*, Romans 8.28). Everyone's life is important to God, and God calls everyone to love Him and share the gospel message.

Humans are God's most important creation, and he loves all of His children. "And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth"(*English Standard Version*, Genesis 1.28). God calls us to fill the world with people, and even the ones to us, who might seem less important, play a huge role as God's children.

In conclusion, everyone who walks this earth plays a role in God's plan. As His children, he calls us to care for and protect adopted children. God has a plan for all of us, He wants us to spread His Word, and He tells us to fill the earth and be fruitful. In the end, everyone is important to God and His plan, even children who need to be adopted.

Everyone Deserves Life

~**Katilyn Pe.**

My Papa would light up a room and smile whenever he had the chance. He had Parkinson's disease, but he didn't let that stop him. Parkinson's made him need a cane, and he often lost his balance, but he would always try to go on walks around his neighborhood to see how beautiful the world was. Though he had a handicap, he would always go to church and be as social as possible. I wondered how he could stay so happy; then one day I thought of the verse Psalm 41:2, "... the Lord protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies" (*English Standard Version*, Psalm 41.2). He was happy because God helped him. He had an infectious smile. He was a blessing in human form. He showed me that everyone should take life slow and enjoy life.

I thought he should've been sad, but God helped him be happy, and there was nothing I could've done to change that. He also was a helpful person. The Bible says in Galatians 6:2, "Carry each other's burdens and so you will fulfill the law of Christ" (*English Standard Version*, Galatians 6.2). He tried to follow the Scripture, even though he was in pain because God was with him.

He would always go to church and tell others about God. The Bible says in Mark 5:19, "Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you" (*English Standard Version*, Mark 5.19). He shared God with others because he was a loyal Christian.

Going on walks was one of his favorite things because he loved looking at nature and enjoying it. 1 Peter 3:10 says, "Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his

tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit”(1 Peter 3.10). He would always love to enjoy the world, and my family loved him for that.

Everyone should appreciate life no matter what problems or difficulties they have. We need more people in the world like my Papa, who relished the good things in life instead of obsessing over the bad things. We need to take life slowly, look at nature, and enjoy the amazing life God has given to us.

Lives of Unborn Babies

~**Kaitlyn Pi.**

Over 50 million abortions have taken place in the United States of America since 1973 (“The Numbers”). Abortion is the killing of an unborn baby. This happens when a mother decides she doesn’t want to have a baby. The baby inside her is killed even though the baby is very alive. The Bible says we should not do this because babies are a precious gift from God. They should be protected, loved, and thought of as a blessing. The Bible says “... the Lord protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies.” (*English Standard Version*, Psalm 41:2). Because of what the Bible says, babies' lives very much matter.

Babies are loved children of God. “ See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know Him” (*English Standard Version*, 1 John 3:1). God loves all children, which means they all matter because they matter to Him. God gives love to everyone, including babies, meaning their lives are important.

God instructed people to have children. “And God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it... ’” (*English Standard Version*, Genesis 1:28). God

wants people to have children and to fill the earth. By wanting this, God tells us that children are good and wanted and that they matter this much to be this important.

The kingdom of God belongs to babies. “But Jesus called to them to him, saying, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God’” (*English Standard Version*, Luke 18:16). Jesus called the children and said that the kingdom of God belongs to them, which means that He cares for them and they matter to Him. Since Jesus cares for little children enough to give them the kingdom of God, it means that their lives matter a lot.

In conclusion, the lives of unborn babies have value. Even though the children have not been born, the Bible gives us much information about how wanted and special they are and how special they are to God. As Christians, we should persuade mothers not to use abortion. We should never forget the importance of babies and how important they are to God.

Why Suicide Is Bad, and You Shouldn't Do It

~Serena P.

Suicide is like a mental illness, except it is an act of killing oneself just to stop all the pain. According to this Bible verse: “The Lord will preserve him, and keep him alive, and he shall be blessed upon the earth: and thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies” (Psalms 41:2). Suicide can also be caused by depression or abuse in one’s life, either that they had a rough, abusive childhood, abusive relationships, bullying, cyberbullying. PTSD (*Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder*) is also another cause of suicide to whatever traumatic event happened in one’s life, which might give the person suicidal thoughts.

Second, I will be honest here, I used to be suicidal, and it was the worst feeling ever. People only commit suicide without hesitation because they can't stop the pain; it is like an endless cycle of pain and misery. Nobody deserves to suffer from an event so horrible that they have to commit suicide to stop the pain. Suicide may be one of the absolute worst and saddest deaths that ever existed.

Third, people are trying to end their lives, but other people like their families and friends will be devastated and have a very stressful time getting through these situations. It hurts when a close family member or friend takes their own life and never gets the chance to share how they feel, it may even cause depression to the person who was very close to them.

In conclusion, God has given us life to live, not to take it away; we are His creation, and we are taking it for granted just to stop the endless cycle of pain. That goes against the 10 Commandments. Despite the fact it is not shown in the 10 Commandments, it still goes against Him; it is on the same level with Homicide, but worse. Many symptoms lead to Suicide, but there is help available. What's worse is that you aren't the only person to go through some things; others may be going through it worse or just the same as you. Don't let anyone or anything bring you down; whatever happens, Jesus is there and will help you get through it. There is always hope; you just have to trust and believe in God.

The Elderly Have Purpose in Life

~Alex R.

The psalmist David tells us, "...the Lord protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies" (*English Standard Version*, Psalm 41.2). This verse says the elderly deserve honor every day of their entire lives. When I think of being blessed by God for an entire life, I think of my friend Juanita "Nana"

Loehrke, my Great-Aunt Janet's grandmother. She passed away a few years ago at age 106.

Nana was born in 1910--wow! What a long time ago, and what a wonderful God we serve who blesses His creation with the gift of life!

The primary reason people have value is that we are made in the image of God. "So God created man in his own image..." (*English Standard Version*, Genesis 1.27). We are all valuable in God's eyes at every point in life, and we were all created for a purpose.

The elderly also have valuable life experiences. The psalmist David knows this because, when he was an old man, he wrote, "So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come" (*English Standard Version*, Psalm 71.18). Older people have beneficial life lessons they can teach others. We should listen to our elders because they have more life experiences than younger people.

Finally, we should not forget or overlook older people. God says, "he will not leave you or forsake you" (*English Standard Version*, Deuteronomy 31.8). David expresses this by saying, "Do not cast me off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength is spent" (*English Standard Version*, Psalm 71.9). We should remember not to overlook or forsake the elderly and visit older people in nursing homes or living alone.

Thus, we should honor the elderly every day of their lives. We are all image-bearers of God, the life experience the elderly have is valuable, and older people should not be overlooked or forgotten. The elderly, even those who don't live 106 years, have a purpose in life like everyone else. As Job 12:12 tells us, "Wisdom is with the aged, and understanding in length of days."

Everyone Is Blessed for Life

~Connor S.

Over 50 million babies have died from abortion since 1973 (“The Numbers”). Women used abortion to get rid of babies they don’t want. God says this is wrong. “... the Lord protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies.” Psalm 41:2. God believes that everyone is blessed for life and that abortion is wrong.

To begin, God says that children are a blessing. “Children are a heritage from the LORD; offspring are a reward from him.” (*English Standard Version* Psalm 127:3-5). Children are a gift from God. You are blessed to be a blessing to your parents. This also proves abortion is wrong because you are getting rid of the gift God gave you.

Secondly, The baby in the womb is a conscious living being. “When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit...[saying] ‘As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.’” (*English Standard Version* Luke 1:41). This shows that John knew Jesus in the womb. This shows that abortion is wrong because murdering a conscious being is wrong. This also shows where they are blessed to be able to know Jesus even before birth.

Thirdly, God planned out your life and made you a blessing to others. “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.” (*English Standard Version* Jeremiah 1:5). God is talking about how he planned Jeremiah’s life. This also shows God planned your life to be a blessing to others. This also shows that abortion is wrong because you’re killing someone who will give blessings to others is wrong.

Finally, God believes that killing fetuses is wrong and that everyone is blessed for life. Children are meant to be a blessing to parents, and getting rid of that gift is wrong. Murdering a

conscious being is wrong, and they are blessed to be able to know Jesus even before they are born. God planned every life to be a blessing to others, and killing someone who will give blessings to others is wrong. We should pray that abortion will stop happening.

The Value of Foster Care

~Hayden S.

To begin, there are more than 16,000 children in foster care just in Illinois, and there are about 4,400 in Chicago alone (“Facts About Foster Care”). I wish that foster care didn’t have to exist and that every child born was loved by their natural parents and not have to be sent to foster care. However, in our sinful world, this is not always possible. Still, God made children to be loved and intended for them to live with family.

First of all, there are so many children who are in foster care because their parents did not want to take care of them, and now they don’t have anyone to love or care for them. 1 John 4:7 says, “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God” (*English Standard Version*, 1 John 4.7). This tells us that we should love one another, whether it be your child or a foster child, or anyone in the world. If you have a child, you should love and cherish them.

All children in foster care need someone to love and cherish them; they have no family and need to be loved. 1 John 4:19 tells us, “We love because he first loved us” (*English Standard Version*, 1 John 4.19). This means that we should love these our children because God loves us, and parents need to love their children just as God loves them.

So many parents just give up on their children and send them to foster care because they don’t want to take care of them. Psalm 41:2 tells us, “... the Lord protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies” (*English*

Standard Version, Psalm 41:2). This tells us that God is protecting the children in foster care and that the parents should not have just given up their child because if it weren't for the love and willingness of God, the children in foster care would die.

God created children to be loved and cherished by their parents. Us Christians are called to help the children in foster care, and God tells us in the Bible that it is our job to do that. Don't send your child to foster care if you have a child and are a parent unless you have to.

Suicide is Wrong

~**Jacob S.**

Every year, about 50,000 lives are taken by suicide (“Suicide Statistics”www.afsp.org). Suicide is not a fix to a person's problems; instead, it's just a way people try to get around their troubles. They try to escape the pressure of this world, but they're doing it all wrong. “The LORD protects and preserves them— they are counted among the blessed in the land— he does not give them over to the desire of their foes” (*English Standard Version* Psalm 41:2). The Lord, in this verse, tells us that he will protect and preserve us. He says that no matter what you think of yourself, you are just as amazing as everyone else. Not everyone can believe that they are good enough for this world, but everyone is enough. I have personally felt that I will never be enough for anything or anyone, and I don't have any purpose in life, but that isn't true. God created everyone for a reason.

First, God made us in his own image. “And He said, ‘Let us make man to our image

and likeness.” (*English Standard Version* Genesis 2:6) God made all of mankind in His image, which means that we are all special

Suicide is not the answer. “If you’ve ever felt like this—if you’ve ever felt like suicide is an option—keep in mind that everything changes over time regardless of your situation. You may feel like you can’t take it any longer, but the pain you feel won’t last forever. Even if you feel like your future is hopeless, no one can predict the future, and things can improve.” (“Home: NAMI”). We don’t have to kill ourselves to weave our way around the struggles when anything could change in a matter of minutes.

No one is perfect. “Never ever believe that each task must be done perfectly. We are humans, and we all make mistakes.” (*Inspirational Words of Wisdom*www.wow4u.com) Not a single human is perfect. You don’t have to be perfect; nobody does.

God created everyone for a reason. God made all of mankind in his image, which means we are all special. We don’t have to kill ourselves to weave our way around the struggles when anything could change in a matter of minutes. No human is perfect. You don’t have to be perfect; nobody does. You are perfect the way you are.

Abortion

~**Natalie T.**

Over 73 million abortions occur worldwide every year (Bearak). Abortion is the killing of babies. When a mother is pregnant unintentionally and doesn’t want the baby, she goes to the doctor, and they kill the baby. God says, “... the Lord protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies.” Psalm 41:2.

Therefore, abortion is the worst thing anyone can do to babies and God.

Babies are God's and are killed by humans. "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well, (Psalm 139:13-14). God makes us in our mother's womb; he puts us together. We are already loved by God.

We break God's word every day by doing bad things like abortion. "If she has made herself impure and been unfaithful to her husband, this will be the result: When she is made to drink the water that brings a curse and causes bitter suffering, it will enter her, her abdomen will swell, and her womb will miscarry, and she will become a curse." (Numbers 5:27). We are cursed by the devil. If we show God we are impure; we can be forgiven for what we have done to babies.

It is a sin to murder unborn babies. "Children are a heritage from the LORD, offspring a reward from him. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. They will not be put to shame when they contend with their opponents in court"(Psalm 127:3-5). We are all God's children, no matter what. Babies are a blessing of life from God.

Finally, unborn children are God's children. The Bible says a lot about unborn babies being killed by mothers that don't want children. We are cursed by God, but he made her and the unborn baby before time. God loves everyone, and we love Him, and we matter to Him, and He matters to us. Babies are a blessing to us through God.

They Matter

~Autumn W.

"... the Lord protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies" (*English Standard Version*, Psalm 41.2). There are over

400,000 children in foster care in the U.S., and 114,556 cannot be taken back to their families and are waiting to be adopted and cared for (“Adoption Network History”adoptionnetwork.com). These children have no family and no one to guide them through their life. Every life is a blessing to others and every single child in an adoption facility matters.

God says that we and all people are important (Ephesians 1.5). “God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great delight.” God adopted us into his family for him to take care of us, proving we are valued. In the same way, we also can adopt and care for a child in Christ.

God called His creation to adopt and teach them the Gospel (1 Samuel 1.27). “I prayed for this child, and the LORD has granted me what I asked of him.” Many people can’t have children or have some complications. The LORD gave everyone responsibilities in life, and some are responsible for adopting a child.

We are all children under Christ, and we are all the same; we are sinners (2 Corinthians 6.18). “I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.” We are all no different than one another, and we should all be treated the same. These children deserve to be adopted just as if we were in their place; we would also deserve to be adopted.

Kids in foster care are valuable; their lives matter. God says that we are all the same, these children's lives were prayed for, and that He adopted us into His family under Christ.

Eighth Grade

Mrs. Hasamear

Life Is a Gift

~Andrew B.

Up to 50,000 people die each year from taking their own lives (“Suicide”). All these people believed that their lives were worth nothing. This is not true; we all have a purpose in life. The Bible says in Psalm 41:2, “... the Lord protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies.” (*English standard version*, Psalm 41.2). This means that the Lord created us all with a specific purpose, and He does not want us to be given up to the devil.

Everyone's life matters. That is the reason God blessed us with the gift of life. If God never cared about us, He never would have taken the time to make our lives awesome. He gives us food, water, clothing, family, and more. This truly shows us that our lives are His top priority as people of God. Another life-affirming Bible verse is: Jesus says in Luke 17:33, “Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will keep it” (*English Standard Version*, Luke 17.33). This tells us that the only way to find life is through God.

Life is the greatest gift God could have given us. And people with these thoughts have no idea God cares for them. He is there every day of our lives. There is no reason that anyone should take their own life, but the reason is they believe life is not worth living. Life is a gift from God; we should not take it.

People with suicidal thoughts need to know that their lives matter. They were put on this earth, by God, for a specific purpose. There is always a better alternative than taking your life. We are never alone because God is with us all of our life. The thing you should learn from this is that these people are still a blessing, and they have a purpose.

Blessed for Life

~Benji B.

Children with Down syndrome are aborted about 90% in the U.S. As Christians, we should recognize that human life is a part of God's plan with a purpose in life. Psalms 41.2, "...the Lord protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him to the will of my enemies" (Psalms 41.2 *English Standard Version*). Children with Down syndrome are not treated fairly in the world and should be recognized as a blessing like every other child.

Children with Down syndrome are not treated like other kids around them. "numerous times of finding them sitting at a table by themselves while all the other kids sat together, we get the message that inclusion isn't something that matters to you." This shows the child with down syndrome being treated unfairly in CHURCH. The church is supposed to be a sanctuary for all Christians, but it even happens here.

Children with Down syndrome are a blessing like every other child. "God was showing me how I'd focused so much time and energy on who I wanted my daughter to be, yet I had lost sight of the blessing that she already is." God really helps us focus on the bigger things in life. The mother wanted her child to do ordinary things by pushing her. Then God opened her eyes to show the true blessing that her child is.

Children with down syndrome have a purpose in life. "Does he have some problems with his heart and an extra chromosome? Yes, but that does not mean that God created him with less value or purpose in life." Parents of Down syndrome sometimes seem to lose sight of the blessing in their child; however, God does give them purpose in life, just like every other child.

In conclusion, Down syndrome children are a blessing and should be treated fairly like every other child. Children with Down syndrome have been mistreated in this world, but people have to recognize that they have a purpose too. They are a blessing, just like every other child.

A Valued Life

~Natalia B.

At least one out of twenty-five U.S. families has adopted a child (“US Adoption Statistics”). My brother and I prove this statistic. As young children, my brother and I were placed in foster care. Today, we are adopted and live with a family who teaches us that God created us for a reason. Psalm 41:2 says, “... the Lord protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies” (*English Standard Version*, Psalm 41:2). This means that the lives of adopted children are important.

To begin, an adopted child's life has value. Acts 7:21 says, “And when he was exposed, Pharaoh's daughter adopted him and brought him up as her own son” (*English Standard Version*, Acts 7:21). God took a Hebrew boy named Moses and brought him to an Egyptian family. This woman raised him like her own child. It didn't matter that Moses was adopted; God still chose Moses to change the world. “You, a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among them to share the richness” (*Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*, Romans 11:17). Every child is included in these rich blessings. This proves that a child's life is valuable.

An adopted child is a gift from God. Psalms 127:3 says, “Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward” (*English Standard Version*, Psalms 127:3). In this verse, God says that a child is a gift. He doesn't exclude any children from this. God told the people that their child was a blessing. This shows that these children are as important as everyone else.

God has a plan for every child, even adopted ones. Jeremiah 29:11 says, “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future

and a hope” (*English Standard Version*, Jeremiah 29:11). His plan for an adopted child is too important to overlook. This shows that God has a plan for every child.

An adopted child is as important as anyone else. God has a plan for them, which makes them a gift. He places them in a home where they will be loved and cherished. Anyone could change an adopted child’s life just by showing love. If you let your love shine a light on an adopted child, that light can help that child as much as it could help you.

The Blessing of Life

~Alyssa B.

In America, suicide is the 10th leading cause of death, with one person taking their life every eleven minutes (“Facts about Suicide”). However, this is not God’s will for the world. The Psalmist reminds us of God’s view on human life by saying, “...the Lord protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies” (*English Standard Version*, Psalm 41.2). Clearly, God values life and has called us to help others value it, too.

First, God has called us to help our neighbors in their struggles. In one of his letters, Paul wrote, “Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ” (*English Standard Version*, Galatians 6.2). Encouraging private meetings with a pastor or setting up a time to share experiences with others in similar situations are two ways that the Church can remove the burdens of those who want to commit suicide. By sharing their feelings with people who can empathize, they will hopefully see their blessings, how they bless others, and that God will help them through their situation.

Additionally, God calls us to pray in unfortunate circumstances like these. Peter states in his first book, “Casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you” (*English Standard*

Version, 1 Peter 5.7). Unfortunately, reminding people with suicidal thoughts of their blessings can be ineffective. Prayer is powerful, so in this case, we must take it to God, trusting that He will guide this person through their trials or comfort others who are affected. We must believe that God will protect and bless them.

Most importantly, God has a plan. According to Jeremiah, God says, “‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope’” (*English Standard Version*, Jeremiah 29.11). God will use their pain to bless their future; He won’t give up on them, so neither can we. He will use that person to bless others, so with God’s help, we must remind them of this and encourage them not to take their life.

Ultimately, God values life and wants us to share that message. He calls us to help and pray for our neighbors who want to commit suicide because He promises He has a plan for everyone. God will protect and bless His creation; we must trust Him, follow His commands, and share His Word.

Life Is Blessed

~**Kylie B.**

On December 10, 2021, a tornado hit the small Kentucky house, where many memories occurred. As I was going to bed, I received a call that my great-grandmother was severely injured in the ICU. We rushed down to the small hospital. We could all tell how much pain my great-grandma was in. She had suffered several injuries, including severe trauma to the head, which made her unresponsive. Although she was 98 and couldn’t see or hear, we decided to let her continue living on life support because she was such a blessing. The Psalmist reminds, “The Lord protects him and keeps him alive; he is blessed in the land, you do not give him up to the

will of his enemies”(English Standard Version, Psalm 41.2). God has made all lives blessed and says that all life has value.

God says all lives have value. People deserve to live and have their life protected. The Bible says, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly” (English Standard Version, John 10.10). God has given all people life. Just because they cannot live independently does not give anyone the right to take their life away. God wanted people to live, signifying that no one's life should be taken from them because they are blessings.

God gives life, and He is the only person who can take it. “Be not overly wicked neither be a fool. Why should you die before your time?” (English Standard Version, Ecclesiastes 7.17). Every person's life has value because God gave it to them. He gets to decide whether a person should live or die.

No one should be murdered because they are physically suffering. “Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image”(English Standard Version, Genesis 9.6). Even though my grandma was suffering, she was a blessing to us. Whoever helps others murder will suffer the consequences given by God.

In conclusion, all lives have value and are blessed in God's eyes. Just because people are seen as lesser doesn't give anyone the right to murder or help murder that person. Euthanasia is taking people from this Earth before God's timing. All people deserve to live and have life be a blessing unto them. All lives have value and are blessings unto others. Euthanasia is taking that life and that blessing away.

Abortion Is Not a Blessing

~**Claire G.**

Abortion has taken life away from 62 million aborted babies (Dorman, Sam). Many people argue for all human rights but often forget the lives of preborn children. God promises to preserve every life, no matter the circumstances. David writes in Psalm 41, “The Lord protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies” (*English Standard Version*, Psalm 41.2). No human life is a mistake, as God promises He will bless and protect all life.

First of all, God has a plan for the unborn with many blessings. The psalmist writes, “The counsel of the LORD stands firm forever, the plans of His heart to all generations” (*English Standard Version*, Psalm 33.11). This verse indicates that God’s had firm plans since the beginning, meaning He is confident that they will work for the best. His love flows through all generations. Therefore, God’s blessings are also given to preborn babies.

Additionally, abortion is murder and doesn’t represent God’s grace. He says, “Whoever takes a human life shall surely be put to death” (*English Standard Version*, Leviticus 24.17). This shows how abortion, killing a fetus inside a woman’s womb, is against the Bible and all morals. Jesus promises to love all nations. He died on the cross for generations to come, which includes the victims of abortion.

Furthermore, an unplanned or unwanted pregnancy is not justifiable by an abortion. John says in chapter three, “...that we should love one another. We should not be like Cain, who was the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous” (*English Standard Version* 1 John 3.11-12). This verse can be

compared to abortion: Because of the mother's sinful deeds, she murdered her innocent child. Although some pregnancies caused by rape end in abortion, someone else's sin doesn't make killing a preborn baby right.

In conclusion, God promises to bless every human being, born or unborn. He has a plan in store with many blessings, meaning that abortion does not represent God's grace for every human life. An unplanned or unwanted pregnancy isn't fixable by abortion and certainly doesn't follow God's promises of protection. Killing children who haven't experienced love and blessings is wrong and needs to stop.

Everyone Has a Purpose on This Earth

~Ava I.

“Special needs are any various difficulties (such as physical, emotional, behavioral, or a learning disability.) This causes an individual to require additional or specialized services” (“Special Needs Definition & Meaning”). My cousin has special needs. Many people see this behavior as odd, especially the Church. The Church at times can be exclusive, but Psalms 41:2 says, “... the Lord protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies”(English Standard Version, Psalms 41.2). Therefore, my cousins and everybody with special needs have value and purpose.

Everyone with special needs has a purpose on Earth. Peter says, “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light”(English Standard Version, 1 Peter 2.9). God loves EVERYONE on Earth, not just people without disabilities. God isn't talking about any particular kind of person in this verse. He wants us to know that He loves everyone.

The Church should not treat someone with special needs differently than the rest of the congregation. Many people expect the church to be a place of worship that is quiet and peaceful, but it is not always going to be like that. God never says who can or cannot come to His house. This is not what God wants in His churches. He wants everyone to be welcomed.

Jesus died on the cross for everyone, even people with special needs. Romans says, “But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (*English Standard Version*, Romans 5.8) God tells us that He loves and died for all of us, not just a specific type of person. There is not one place in the Bible where God says He doesn’t love someone because they are different.

In conclusion, my cousin and everyone with special needs is valued and important. Everyone has a place on this earth, and God loves us all. God says that the church should be a welcoming place for all people. Therefore, God created everyone, not just people without disabilities; He placed them on this earth to be a blessing and not a burden.

Adoption vs. Abortion

~**Lizzie J.**

Thinking about yourself isn't always best, and selflessness is the ultimate act of love. A friend of mine had to go through child services for five years. Her mother didn't choose abortion even though she couldn't care for her children properly. She then figured that taking care of her children wasn't the best; therefore, she put them up for adoption. Selflessness saved her daughter, my friend. After several years in foster care, my friend was adopted by her current mother, who adopted her from the cruel truth of this world. This story shows why mothers should choose adoption over abortion and choose life as stated in this bible verse, “The Lord protects and preserves them...” (*English Standard Version*, Psalm 41.2).

Adoption is better than abortion for many reasons, but one of the main reasons to adopt is so the adoptee can have a more anchored stratagem. “‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘to give you a future and a hope.’” (*English Standard Version*, Jeremiah 29:11). In this bible verse, you can see that our Father has a better ploy for us than anyone. God has adopted us into his arms and sacrificed himself for a better life for us.

Furthermore, abortion is not the best choice. It costs from \$1,500 to \$3,000. This may seem like the chief option because you may not have to pay for the child later. In addition, some types of insurance don’t cover abortion. Therefore, a mother should try to think more about the life around her than just herself. As the bible says, “Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry,.. those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”(*English Standard Version*, Galatians 5:19-21). In these words above, the Lord states that we shouldn't cling to worldly desires but to him.

Adoption is the process of transferring from one parent to another. This helps the child find the word of God. “... strengthen me according to your word!” (*English Standard Version*, Psalm 119:28). This bible verse shows the Lord telling his people to come to Him so that he can strengthen them in their faith.

Adoption is far better than abortion. Adoption is cheaper and more human. Therefore, listen to God and follow the correct path that He has laid before us.

Miracle of Life

~**Elise K.**

When God made us, he made our bodies temples of the Holy Spirit. Even when they are suffering, it is murder. If we kill them, we may think we are doing the best thing for them, but we

aren't. When God made us, He made our bodies to preach His Word, pray to Him. "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body" (*New International Version, 1 Corinthians 6,19-20*).

We are being wicked and being a fool. If we kill someone just because they are suffering, that is not good. We might think about what is best. Only God has the power to create life and to destroy life. If they are taken care of by the doctors, they may have a chance of living and surviving. "Do not be overly wicked nor be a fool. Why should you die before your time?" (*New International Version Ecclesiastes 7,17*).

Since we are sinful, we do the opposite of what God wants; instead, we listen to ourselves and choose to do something we want. "Abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia in our society are evidence of rebellion against God (*You searches for Euthanasia*). We should not hate suffering because we know that God will take care of us. "More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame. God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us." (*New International Version Romans 5,3-5*).

When we choose to follow our own path rather than listen to God, we rebel against Him. We should never take life for granted. God has made us the way He wanted us. We are precious in His sight. Therefore, we are blessed to live.

Blessed for Life

~Sierrah K.

Sixty-two percent of babies put up for adoption are now adopted (*"US Adoption Statistic"*). Depending on the situation, this can be good or bad. These children are a blessing

and deserve a home. Scripture states, "... the Lord protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies." (*English Standard Version*, Psalm 41.2). God protects those who need homes. He called people to help children in need. The Lord put all children on this earth for a reason, so they should get the chance to prove it.

Adoption is an alternative to abortion. Less than 4% of unwanted pregnancies end in adoption (*"US Adoption Statistic"*). God wants us to adopt children rather than abort them. (*English Standard Version*, Ephesians 1.5). The Bible says, "He did this by predestining us to adoption as his legal heirs through Jesus Christ, according to the pleasure of his will—." We are all equal in God's eyes and deserve families. He doesn't want His children to suffer through abortion or homelessness; He wants them to be loved by earthly parents.

Adoption helps children to get away from harmful environments. God wants His children to be happy. He wants His children to feel like they matter. When children are in abusive situations, they feel like they don't matter. (*English Standard Version*, Proverbs 31.8) says, "Open your mouth for the mute." God wants His people to be there for the kids who cannot speak up for themselves.

Adoption gives children the chance to come to faith in Jesus. God wants every child to have the opportunity to come to faith. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." (*English Standard Version*, Matthew 19.14). He is calling His older children to take care of the younger ones. They should have an education and a good Christian faith so they can go to Heaven. If you adopt a child, you should help get them baptized.

The Lord put all people on the earth for a reason, so they should get to live it out. Adoption is a great way to keep people from aborting. It also helps get children away from unsafe environments. Adoption helps children come to faith in God, so they know they are blessed. People should try to help children because God wants it.

Blessed for Life

~**Kristian M.**

Over time, five states legalized Physician-Assisted Suicide, and another state allows the physicians to use the patient's request as a defense when put on trial. ("Physician-Assisted Suicide Fast Facts"). This, however many people believe it, isn't right. People believe, wrongly, that suicide is humane, but it goes against God's word. "... the Lord protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies" Psalm 41:2. We're all gifts in the eyes of the LORD. Our lives are not man's to take away.

God knows that everyone's life has worth, even if they have some disease that prevents them from doing what healthy people can. The patients often don't think that their life has worth because of their condition. This isn't always the case, but it is in plenty of recorded cases. The patient's life does have worth. The LORD made us in his image. He breathed the breath of life to first man, and we have that in us. "And God saw everything that He had made, and behold; it was very good" (*English Standard Version* Genesis 1:31). Jesus Christ came, and he will come again, to take all believers to heaven to be with him. He won't notice some disease you have. He will make you perfect. He will restore your body and soul to be with him for eternity.

People have thought over the years that they know what is best for them, their kind, and the world. This is not true, no matter how many people believe it. They have this thought when they think it's best to kill themselves, that they know what is best for their bodies. Maybe you

know what your body needs, but even though the doctors and physicians know better, God is the only one who truly knows what's the best thing for you. When people think they need to die, God doesn't believe this. Though they may have some type of disease, disorder, or something wrong with their bodies, it isn't right. In the army, when a man goes to battle, either injured or killed, they are not left behind and forgotten. They get taken with the other soldiers. It is the same with God and his people. We are soldiers, and they are injured. We help them. They can be fixed. And if not on earth, they will be fixed in heaven. They are not worthless. We do not leave them behind. And he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' And He said to him, 'Truly I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise'"(*English Standard Version* Luke 23:42-43).

There is value in every life, and we should remember this. When you are depressed, and thinking of just ending it all, remember that: there is light at the end of the tunnel and that even when no one else cares, there will always be one person who does. His name is Jesus. He will always care for you; he will always be your friend; he will always be there for you. People with

Disabilities

~**Jeremy M.**

Did you know 1 out of 33 babies born in the U.S. is born with disabilities? A disability is something that limits a person physically or mentally. People with disabilities are just like us and have feelings like we do, too. "The LORD protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies." (*English standard version* Psalms 41.2).

Some people act like people with disabilities aren't human. "When I met Agus, a young man with a psychosocial disability (mental health condition) in Central Java, Indonesia. He spent

four years locked in a sheep shed, barely able to stand or move” (“We Need to Stop Treating People with Disabilities as Less than Human”). This is an example of people with disabilities not being treated the same as people without disabilities, Agus got put in a shed for four years just because of his disabilities, and they treated him less than other people because of something he can't help. He was born with this and can't get rid of it.

People with disabilities have the same rights as us. “Disability rights are basic human rights, not special rights. Persons with disabilities have the same rights as all people to non-discrimination, access, equality of opportunity, inclusion, and full participation in society” (Promoting the Rights of Persons with Disabilities). This says that people with disabilities have the same rights as us, and it shows how we are all human, and we do not have any rights they do not have.

In the Bible, God says to teach everyone God's word. “And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation””(English standard version Mark 16.15). This bible verse shows that we need to tell everyone about God, even people with disabilities and that we need to help them.

In conclusion, people with disabilities are still people. They have feelings like us, and God says they are people and need to know his Word. They are a blessing to us. Just because someone may act or think differently doesn't mean they should be treated poorly; they are still human.

Blessed for Life

~Brindy R.

The children most in need of adoption are between ages 9 and 20 (“8 Things You Might Not Know About Adopting an Older Child”). These children have been waiting and need a

forever family. Christ reassures everyone that they'll always have a home with Him, and He won't give them up to their enemies. Scripture says, "... the Lord protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies" (*English Standard Version*, Psalm 41.2). God says that he protects children in need of adoption, and they shouldn't give up hope. It's our job as a church and all who believe this to help. That is supporting them financially, fostering, or even adopting them if possible. This is a massive issue in America that needs to be addressed immediately.

God commands us to love and to take care of one another. The Bible says, "Look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world" (*English Standard Version*, James 1.27). This calls Christians to take care of children who are orphans and in need of adoption.

God promises to strengthen parents who wish to adopt children. God says, "Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint" (*English Standard Version*, Isaiah 40.31). The process of adopting can be stressful, long, and tiring for both kids and parents. All believers can trust in God to strengthen them and help them through the process.

Children don't have the authority or ability to take care of themselves; God entrusts parents to raise their children according to His Will. The Bible states, "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute" (*English Standard Version*, Proverbs 31.8-9). Children in need of adoption need parents to speak up for them and take care of their needs.

In conclusion, God commands the church to protect and care for all children, even if they are older. We are to love one another by taking care of each other. God will help the people

whom he calls to adopt. God trusts parents to raise their children according to his will. Adoption might be a calling that God puts on your heart.

Disabled People Are Blessings

~Nolan R

In the world, 91% of disabilities are caused by illness, and accidents cause 9%. Over 1 in 4 20-year-olds will become disabled before they retire. Also, the average long-term disability claim lasts 34.6 months. Adults with disabilities are more likely to die than adults without disabilities, 19.92% to 10.94%. There is a large population of disabled people in the world, and their lives should be valued. The Bible says, "... the Lord protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies" (*English Standard version*, Psalm 41.2). Disabled people are still people, and their lives are valuable.

Every disability comes with blessings. "It was not because of his sins or his parents' sins,' Jesus answered. 'This happened so the power of God could be seen in him'" (*English Standard Version*, John 9.3). God did not make disabled people because of their parents. He made them that way as a blessing; they are a testament to the power of God. Disabled people are blessed because the power of God is made perfect through weakness. "But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me" (*English Standard Version*, 2 Corinthians 12.9). The disabled have weaknesses from whatever kind of disability they have. Through that weakness, the power of God is made perfect.

The disabled are blessed because God made them that way for a reason. "Then the LORD said to him, 'Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the LORD?'" (*English Standard Version*, Exodus 4.11). The disabled are not created as a

bad thing. God specially creates them as a blessing. Everything happens for a reason, whether it is known or unknown.

Disabled lives are valuable. Disabled people are blessed, and the power of God should be seen in them. Through their weakness, the power of God is made perfect. God made disabled people for a reason as a blessing. Overall, disabled people are just as valuable as anyone else and should be treated that way..

Adoption's Blessings

~Gavin R.

Adoption is a process looked on by many as difficult, time-consuming, and sometimes harmful to the participants. However, I think adoption is a valuable tool that gives others a chance to raise a child. It can provide both parties with a better life and prevent death. According to God's word, "... the Lord protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies." ("Psalms 41:2, ESV"). This means no matter what, every little thing makes a huge difference, life being one of the biggest.

One-third of U.S. citizens consider adoption, but only 2 percent actually commit to it ("US Adoption Statistics"). This is good and bad because while many consider adoption, many don't follow through. Seven million Americans are adopted, and adoption has had its rises and downfalls ("US Adoption Statistics"). For example, in the U.S. during 2007, 19, 942 international adoptions were done, but in 2011, that number declined to 9, 319 from restrictions on international adoptions ("US Adoption Statistics"). About 140,000 children are adopted each year ("US Adoption Statistics"). This shows how little people care or know about adoption. Adopting a child gives them a chance, and they become a blessing to you. Their life is also a

blessing to them. They can use it to be a blessing to others, too. No matter how many children you adopt, it still makes a significant impact on life and gives us a chance to expand and learn.

My personal experiences with adoption include my father and my two aunts. My grandparents had an open adoption with my dad's parents before he was born and brought him home when he was 22 hours old. He grew up near Buffalo, New York, then moved to Edwardsville, Illinois, in sixth grade. He's taught me many life lessons, applying his past hardships to these, and raises me based on others' triumphs and mistakes. He also blesses me because of the bond that we share, and he provides for me, teaching me how fortunate I am. My aunts are very fun to be around; they are wise in their own ways and always willing to help. They also give me somebody to whom I can talk.

Adoption is many times overlooked, leading to abortion. We can prevent this by encouraging and spreading awareness about adoption. When adopting a child, you give yourself a chance to raise them. You also provide them with care and a family while helping the parent by doing so and giving their child the support they might've not had.

In conclusion, adoption is a valuable and vital tool to save and affirm lives that may have been lost. This makes that child a precious blessing, giving them a chance to bless others.