



STORY TIME

When my friend was a kid, he loved climbing trees. There was one occasion when he fell out of a tree from a great height, landing right on the back of his neck. The pain was intense, but his immediate thought was, "If I start crying and run to mom, she'll never let me climb the tree again." So, he kept it to himself. Not long after, he fell from the same tree again, this time his arm got caught in a crook of branches, leaving him dangling above the ground.

Again, his instinct, after climbing out of the precarious situation, was to keep quiet about it because he feared that his mom and dad would ban him from the upper heights—the source of joy he found at the top of the tree.

During another adventure, he was driving his go-kart with one of the neighbor kids, when he took a turn too hard. The neighbor tumbled out, landing on his head. Unlike my friend, our neighbor did not share his priorities. Walking off with tears in his eyes, he said, "I'm going to go tell my mom." My friend recalls finding that the oddest choice of all. After all, wasn't he having the time of his life? Didn't he know that his mother would see to it that the fun would end? Didn't he realize he was making a huge mistake?

Just like in tree climbing, sometimes we're afraid to tell God when we mess up, thinking we might lose our 'fun' or He might be too disappointed in us.

THE BIG IDEA

"God's Grace is Bigger Than Our Boo-Boos"

KEY VERSES

"When Jesus lived on earth, he was tempted in every way. He was tempted in the same ways we are tempted, but he never sinned. With Jesus as our high priest, we can feel free to come before God's throne where there is grace. There we receive mercy and kindness to help us when we need it." (Hebrews 4:15-16 ERV)

DIGGING DEEPER

Just like my friend who fell from the tree but didn't want to tell his mom for fear of losing his climbing fun, we sometimes hide our mistakes from God. We might think if God knows what we've done wrong, He might not love us as much or might stop us from having fun. But that's not true! The Bible tells us in Hebrews 4:14-16 that Jesus understands us perfectly because He's been here and faced tough choices just like we do. He never messed up, but He knows how hard it can be not to.

For those of us who have believed in Jesus for eternal life, God's throne, where Jesus sits, is a safe place where we can go with our boo-boos, whether they're on our knees or in our hearts. And the best part? Instead of getting mad, God offers us a helping hand full of kindness and mercy. That means even when we fall, God is there to pick us up, dust us off, and help us try again without being afraid.

QUESTIONS

Have you ever been afraid to tell someone when you've made a mistake? How does it feel to know that you can tell Jesus anything?

What are some ways we can "climb" back to Jesus after we've fallen or made a mistake?

Can you think of a time when you felt God's kindness and mercy? What was that like?

ADD SOME COLOR



CONCLUSION

Remember, it's okay to fall or make mistakes because God's grace is like a big, soft cushion that catches us. Each time we come to Him, He's ready to listen and help us back up. So, let's not be afraid to run to God, just like we would run to show a parent a boo-boo, because with God, we can always keep climbing higher.