

God Cares

For Adopted Kids

Elizabeth Long

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Dedication

To all of my adopted friends and family. You are dearly loved - by your family and by Jesus. I pray that you will soon be adopted into God's family also.

"Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation."

Psalm 68.5 ESV

God made you and every other person in the world.
Because he made you, you belong to him...just like
my paintings and drawings belong to me.

Psalm 100.3



(No one has ever seen God
the Father, so in this book I
have drawn God the Son,
Jesus.)

Sometimes I forget about my paintings and they get left on the floor or get juice spilled on them, but

God is

not

like me.

He never forgets about his creatures, and he

never

has accidents.



The biggest need that we could **ever** have is to be rescued from sin so that we can be adopted into God's family.

Jesus did that for us on the cross.



If God has **already** provided for our **biggest** need, then he **can** be trusted to take care of everything else.

John 3.16-19, Romans 8.31-32

When we are kids, one of the most important ways that God takes care of us is by giving us a mom and dad. The job of being a mom or dad is very special, and it is meant to be forever.

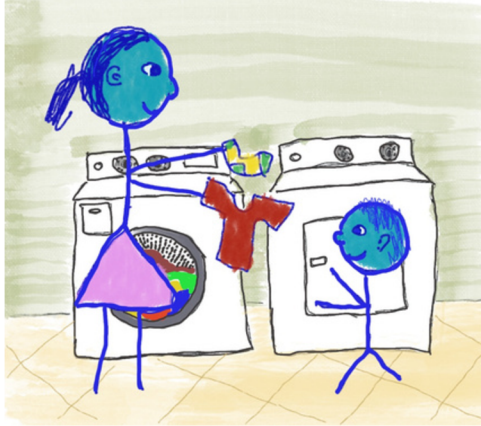


Moms and dads do

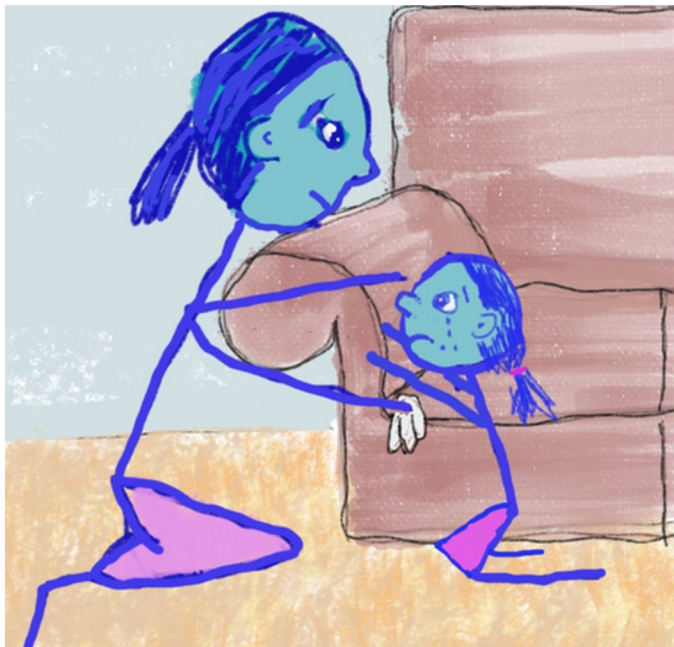
many

important things for us.





They fix hungry tummies and scraped knees. They keep us warm and clean. They make sure that we have money for the things that we need. They try to understand us so that they can help us learn. They also protect us from things that might hurt our bodies or our minds.



Your mom and dad work together to make big picture plans for what they want your family to learn and how they want to keep your family safe.

Then they color in the details of the plan to make it fit all the different people in your family.





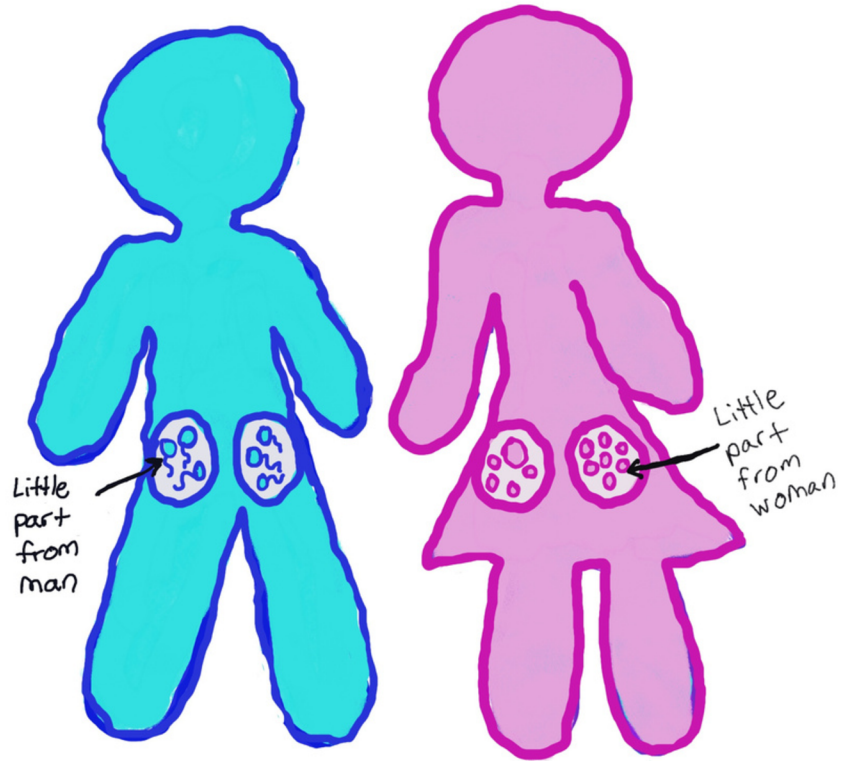
The jobs of being a mom
or a dad are

big,
important
jobs.

They are **SO**
big and important that
moms and dads need help
from God to do their jobs
well.



When God made you, he used a little part from a man's body and a little part from a woman's body and put them together.



Those little parts that God used to make you have lots of information inside them about your body. That information is called your genes.

Your genes tell how tall you should be, what you should look like, and what kinds of illnesses you might have.



They may even have information about what sorts of things you will be good at!



Genetic Family

The man and the woman whose bodies were used to make your body are your **genetic mom and dad** because they gave you your genes. Usually, what you look like and the illnesses that you might get are similar to your genetic mom and dad.

Many times, your **genetic mom and dad** will also be your **life mom and dad**- the ones doing the job of mom and dad for you.

But sometimes your genetic mom and dad are not **able** to be your life mom and dad. Sometimes they start doing the job, and then something happens that makes them **unable** to continue doing it.



If your genetic mom and dad and your life mom and dad are different people, it means that you have been **adopted**.

Adoption is what we call becoming a forever member of a new family.

You may not look like other members of your adoptive family because your genes are different,

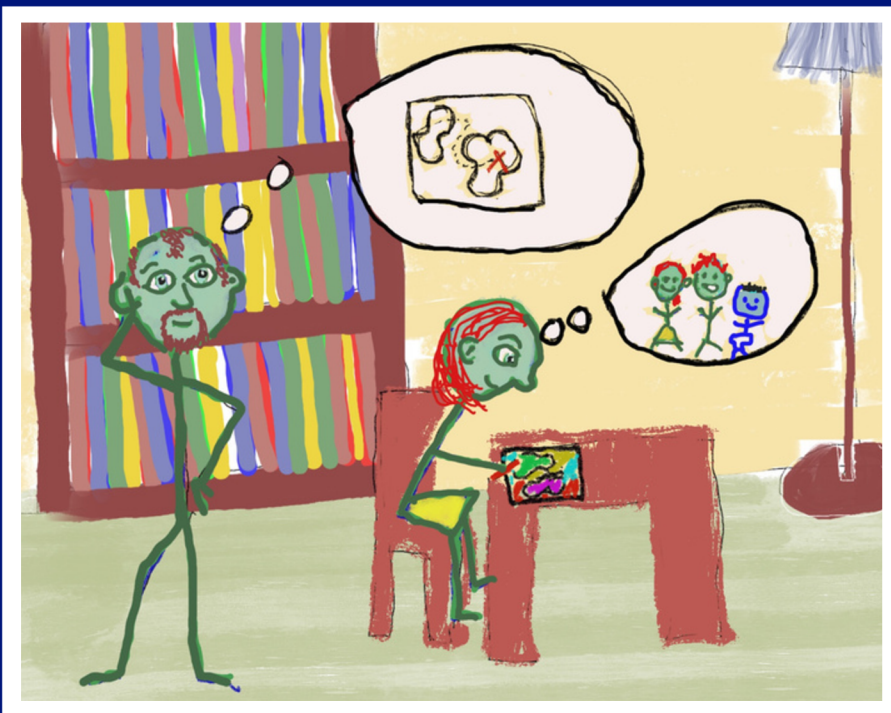


but **you**
belong to
them,
and **they**
belong to
you
forever!

Your adoptive mom and dad love you **just as much** as if you had **always** been in their family. And they **will** take care of you.



Your adoptive mom and dad will make sure that you have food, clothes, and medicine. They will keep you safe and try to help you learn.



They will also make sure that the big picture plans for the family fit

you.

It is a

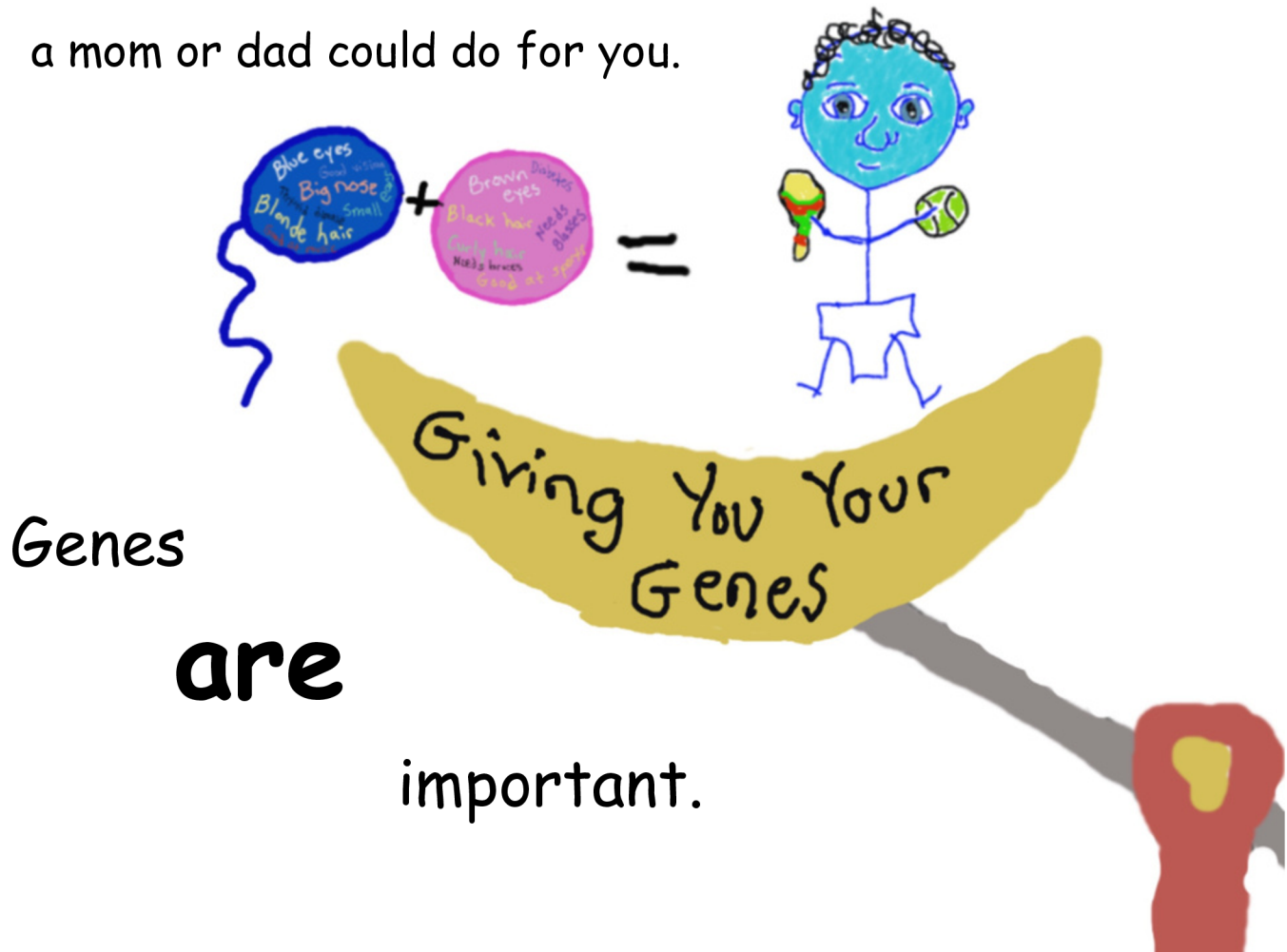
big,
important

job,

but God will help them do it.



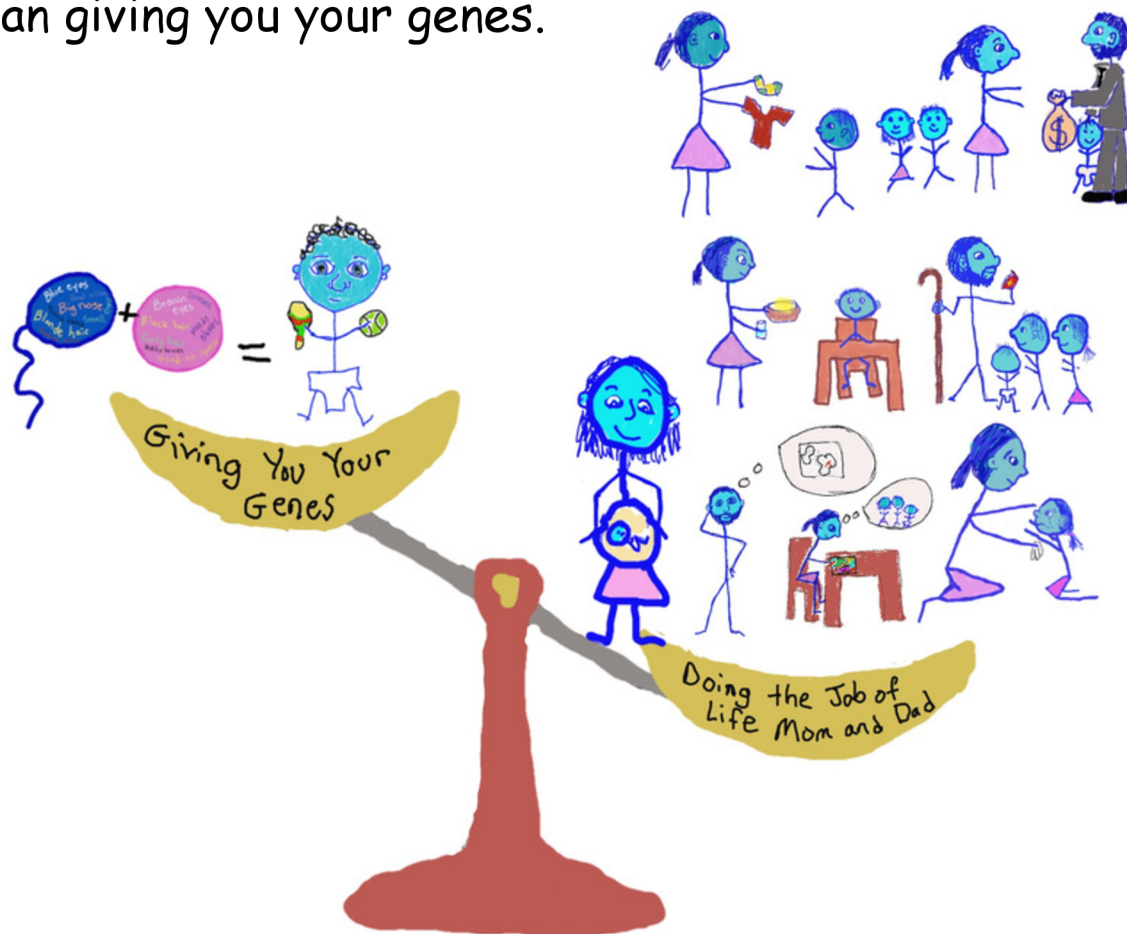
Some people think that your **genetic mom and dad** are your **real** mom and dad and your adoptive parents are **not**. If that were true, it would mean that giving you your genes was the **most important thing** a mom or dad could do for you.



They help to explain how your body looks and how it works.

But the job of being your real mom and dad
is much
much
bigger

than giving you your genes.





Anyone who has ever done the job of
life mom and dad for you, has done something
very special.

Many kids spend their whole lives being cared for by the same life mom and dad, but for some kids, the man or woman doing the job of life mom or dad had to change. If a change has to happen, it is **never** because something is wrong with **you**. It is also **not** because you did something wrong.



Everyone who has **ever** done the job of life mom or dad for you has **loved** you. Sometimes a change needs to happen to make sure that you have everything that you need.



Having a change in your life mom or dad can feel

sad or scary,

but sometimes it doesn't.

Sometimes it feels happy or exciting,



and other times it feels sad, scary, happy, and exciting all at once...



... like a crazy salad with pickles, strawberries, and chocolate chips!



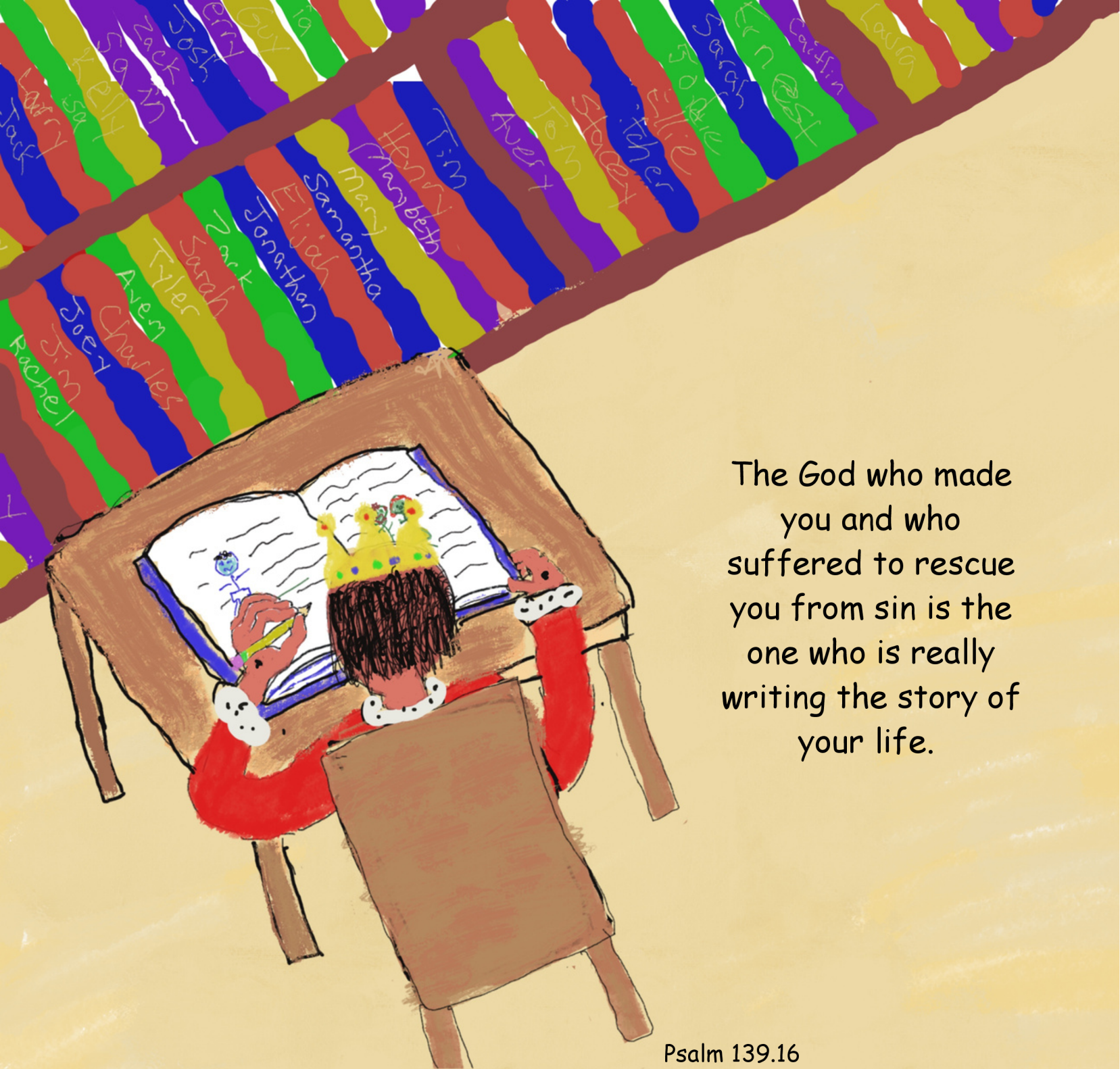
Those feelings are all okay to have, but it is important to remember that God has **never** stopped taking care of you,

and he

never

will.



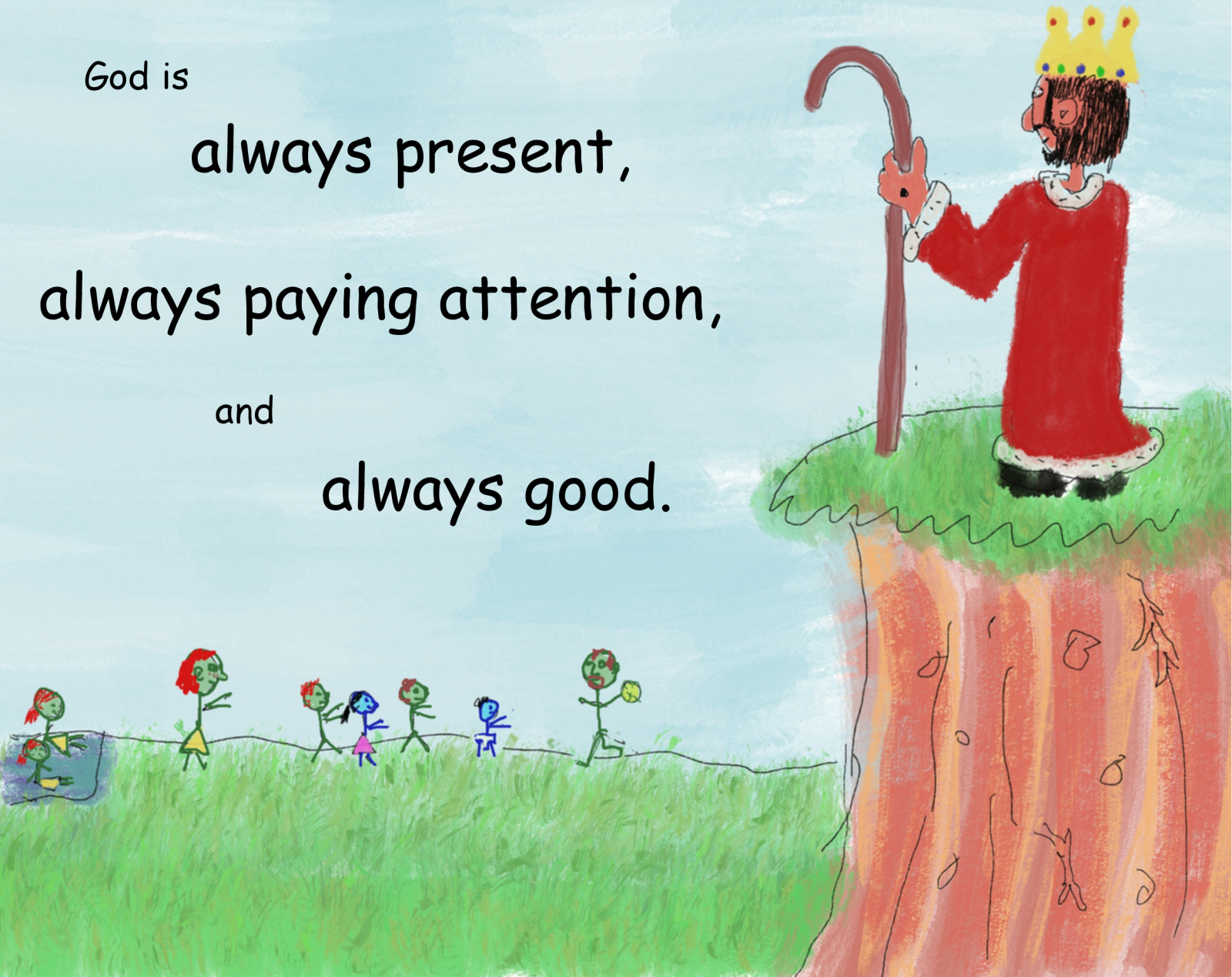


The God who made
you and who
suffered to rescue
you from sin is the
one who is really
writing the story of
your life.

Psalm 139.16

Human moms and dads sometimes do things by accident or make mistakes, but God never does. Human moms and dads sometimes have to change their jobs, but God never changes his.

God is
always present,
always paying attention,
and
always good.



What is our biggest problem and what did God do to fix it?

The Bible tells us that all people have sin in their hearts. Sin is what God calls the wrong things that we do and think about and want. Our sin makes us fight against having God as our king.

Sin deserves a really big punishment because it is rebellion against the best, most important king ever. The punishment is too big for us, so God made a plan to rescue us.

God the Father sent God the Son (Jesus) to take our punishment on himself so that we could be forgiven. If we ask Jesus to free us from sin and change our hearts, he will do it, and we will be adopted into God's family. We will belong to him and he will belong to us forever.

John 3.16-18, 2 Corinthians 5.17-21

How Can I Be Sure That God Knows What I Need?

Psalm 23 tells us that God cares for his people like a shepherd cares for his sheep. God makes plans for getting his people food, water, and rest. He also comforts us by being with us when we go through scary things.

Matthew 6.8 says that God already knows what we need before we even begin to pray.

Matthew 10:29-31 tells us that no little bitty sparrow dies without God knowing about it and planning for it to happen. It also says that you are **way** more important than sparrows. God knows how many hairs are on your head **all** the time!

If God controls what happens to sparrows, keeps track of your hairs, and promises to care for his people like a shepherd, you can trust that he knows about everything that you need.

What About the Sad and Scary Things That Happen?

Romans 8.28 tells us that if we are part of God's family, even the sad and scary things that happen are part of God's plan to do us good. Sometimes we can't understand God's plan right now, but once we are in heaven with Jesus, we will be able to see God's whole plan and we will see clearly that he was always doing something good, even in the sad and scary times.

The Bible also promises that God will always be with his adopted children. He will comfort us and help us to pray; he will remind us that he loves us, and he will make us brave.

Romans 8:26-39, Psalm 23:4, 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

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