


# How Sarah's Story Started

An Embryo Adoption Tale


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This story is about  
someone that I love  
**very** much! The  
names have been  
changed, but the story  
is true.

**Sarah** was adopted  
into her family as an  
embryo.



But what  
is an  
embryo?

All people start out as tiny babies called **embryos**. Embryos are too small to see with your eyes. Embryos look pretty strange, but **we all**

looked like

**this**

when we first started living.



Cartoon embryo



Picture of Sarah as an embryo

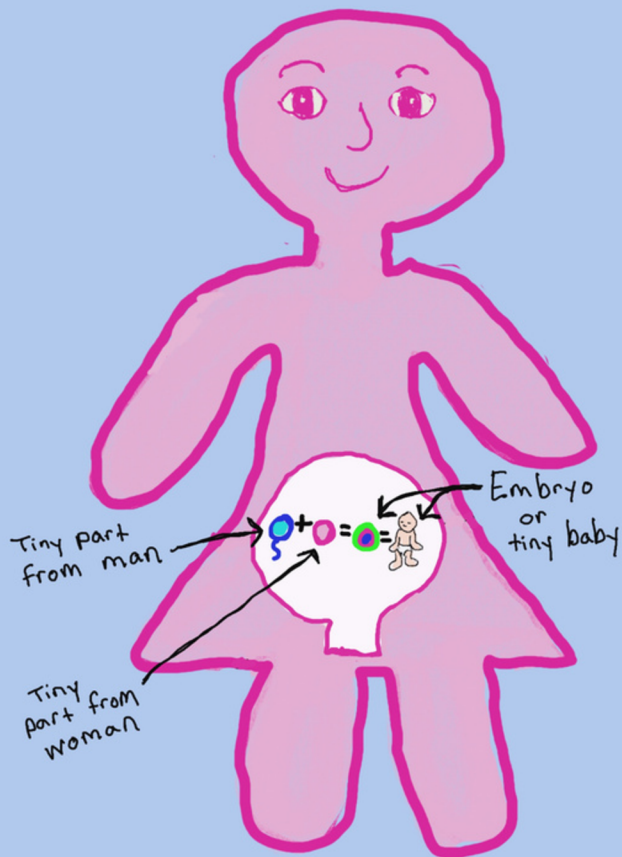


Tiny Baby

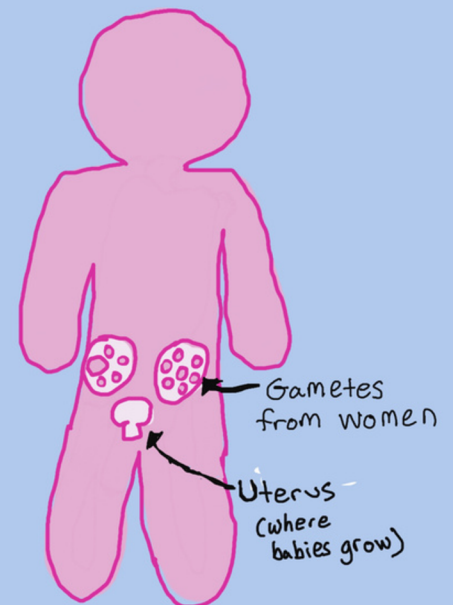
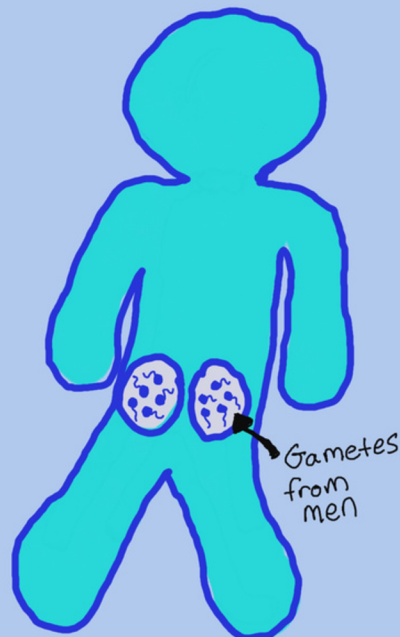
God creates embryos by putting together a tiny part from inside a man and a tiny part from inside a woman.

Normally this happens inside the woman's body, in a special place called **the uterus.**

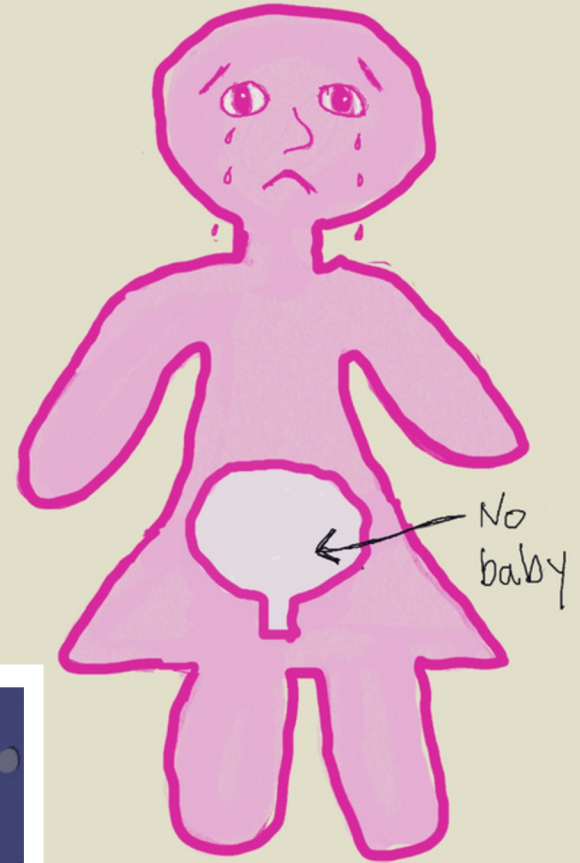
The tiny parts that God joins together to make a baby are called **gametes.**



Just like embryos, gametes are too small to see with your eyes. Men's and women's bodies make **lots** of them.



Sometimes men's and women's bodies are **not able** to make a baby in the usual way. Sometimes their gametes don't work correctly. Sometimes something else is wrong.



When men and women are having trouble making a baby, they might choose to get help from

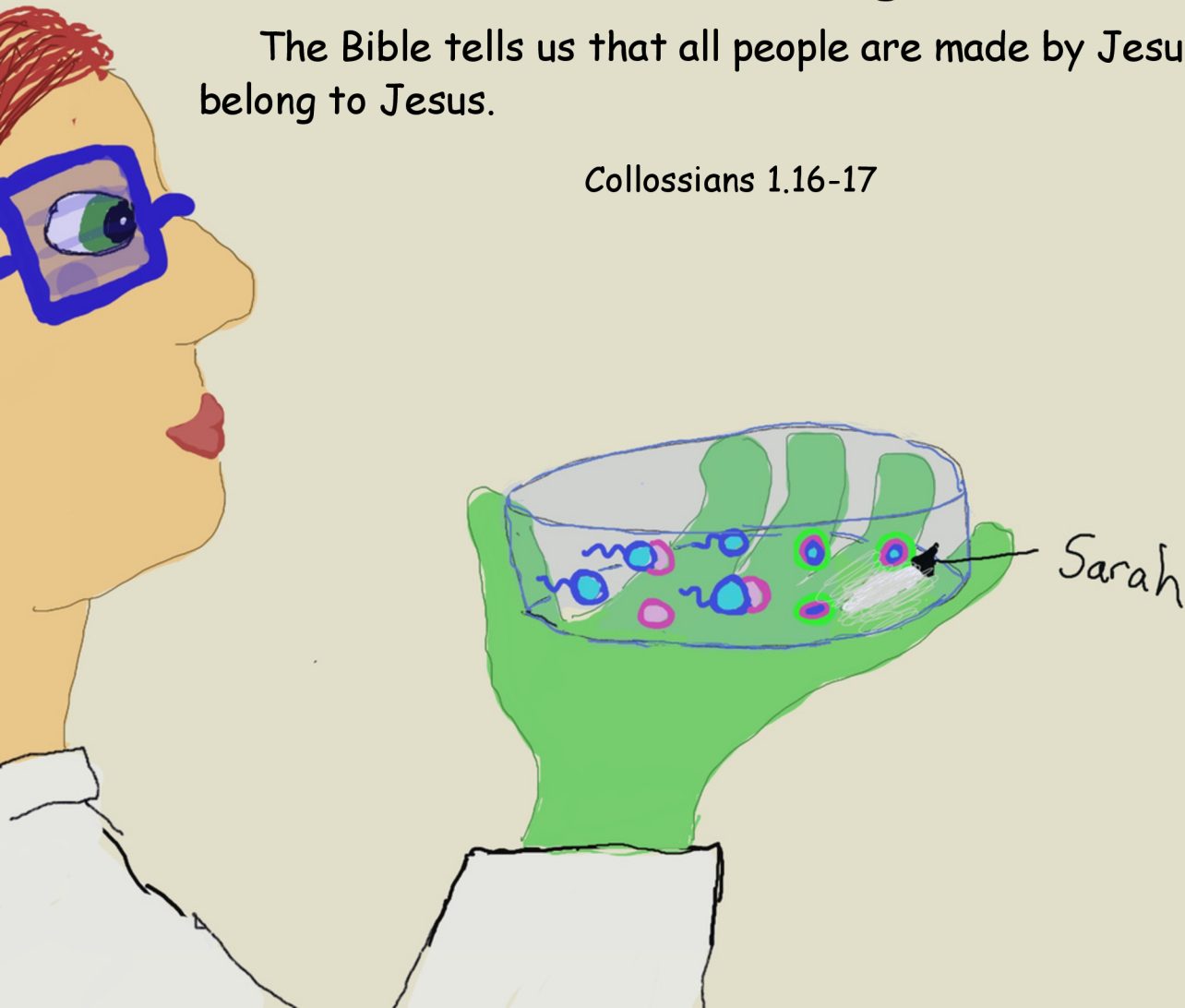
← doctors  
and  
scientists.

One way that doctors and scientists can help a man and a woman to have a baby is to take gametes out of the bodies of the man and the woman and put them together using special tools. After that, the tiny baby, or embryo, who was created has to be put back inside the woman's body to grow up. Even though doctors and scientists help with this process,

## God is still in charge.

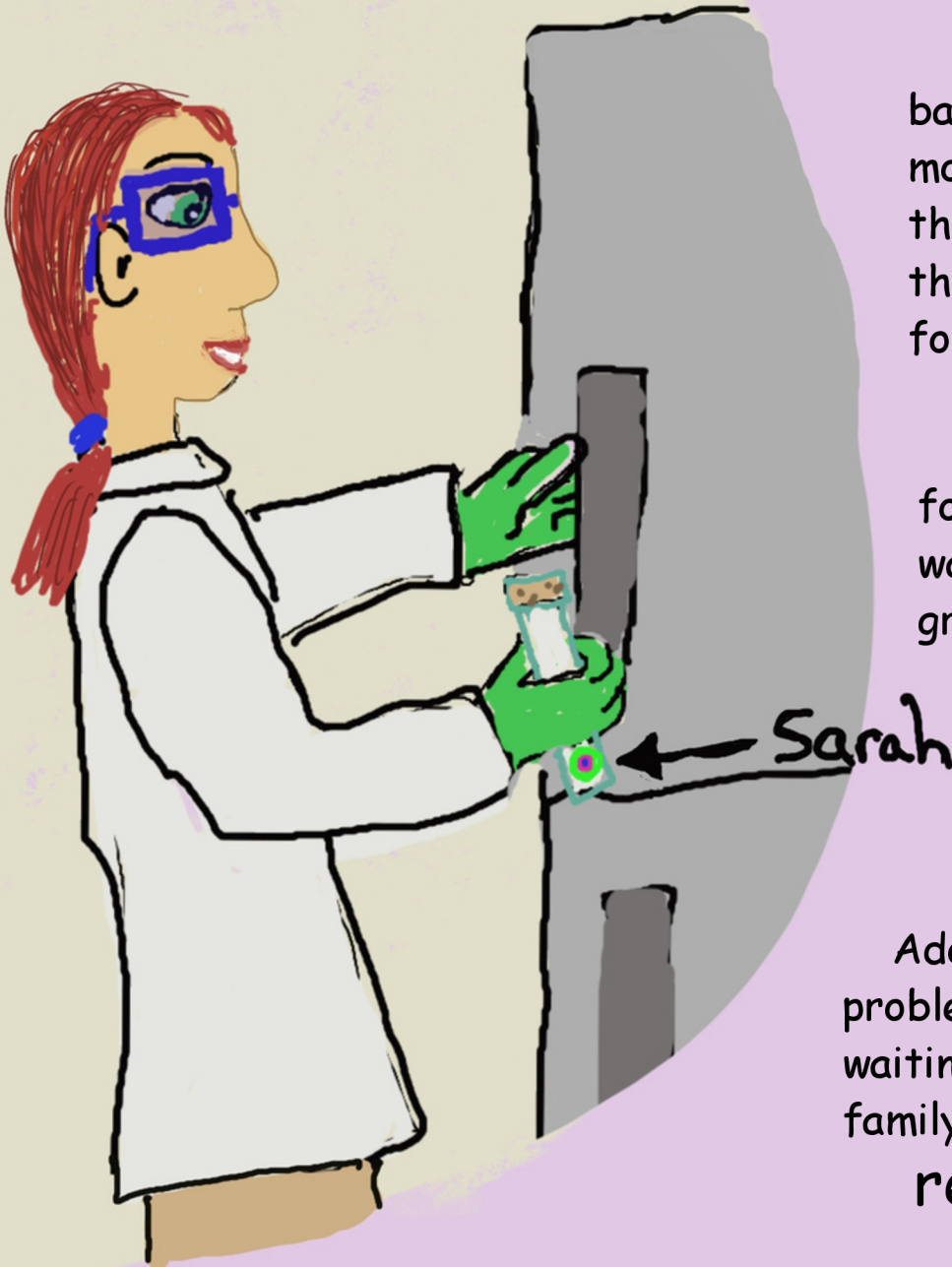
The Bible tells us that all people are made by Jesus and belong to Jesus.

Collossians 1.16-17





Once embryos are created, they **need help to go on living.** They have to either be put inside a woman's body to grow up or be put in a special freezer that keeps them safe until a woman's body is available to care for them. Often many embryos are made at one time, which means that **many embryos spend a lot of time waiting** for a chance to grow up.



Families who create babies this way often have more embryos waiting in the special freezer than they are **able** to care for.

This creates a problem for the embryos who are waiting for a chance to grow up.

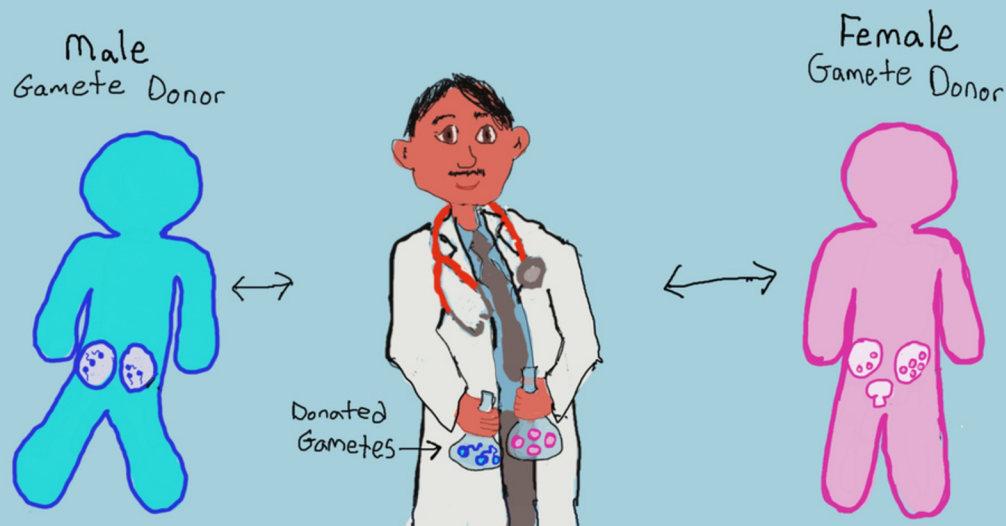
Adoption can solve this problem by placing the waiting embryos into a new family who is **ready and able** to care for them.

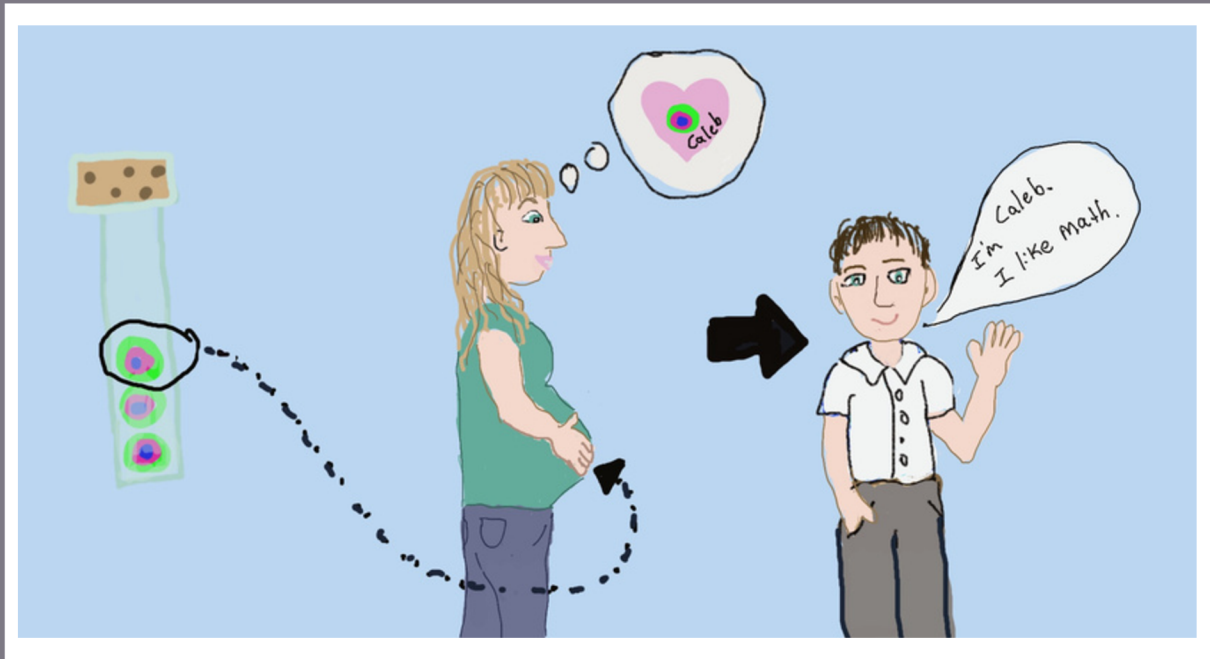
That is what happened to Sarah.



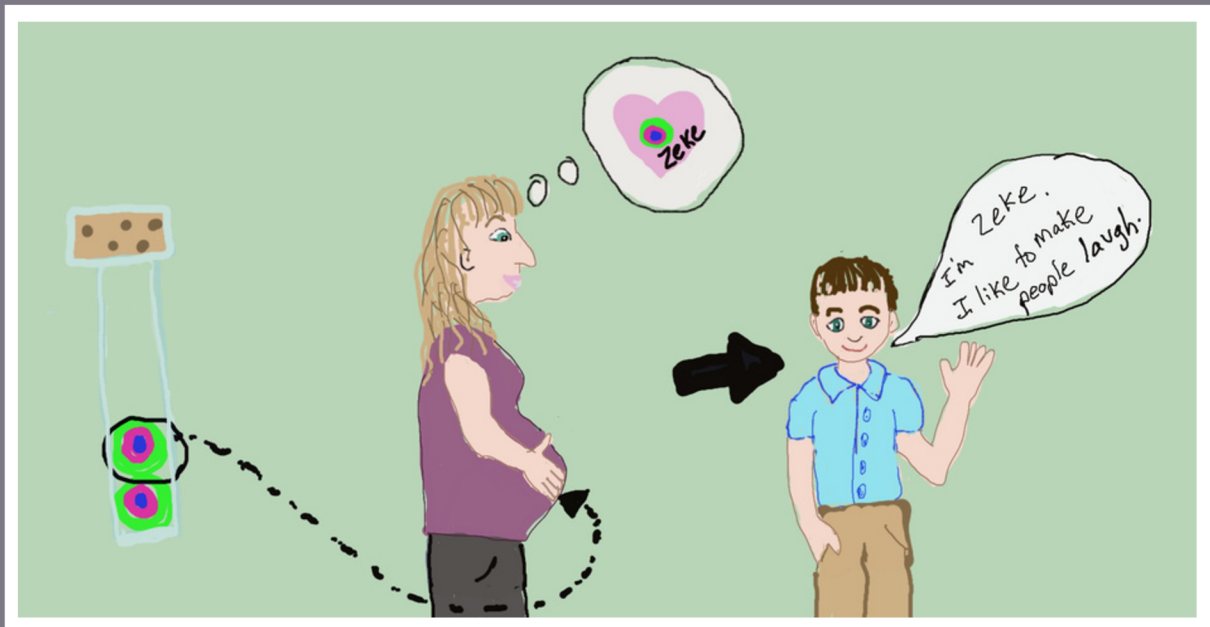
Sam and Jill were a husband and wife who were having trouble making a baby. Doctors and scientists used their special tools to help Sam and Jill create embryos to put inside Jill's body so that they could grow up. Sarah's story started as one of Sam and Jill's embryos.

Sam's and Jill's gametes did not work correctly, so the doctors and scientists used **gamete donors** to make embryos for them. Gamete donors are people who choose to give away some of their gametes to help people who can't have babies on their own.





After Sam and Jill's embryos were created, the doctors began to place them into Jill's body one at a time. Two of them grew up into special little boys named Caleb and Zeke.



After Zeke was born, Sam and Jill had **one embryo left** in the lab. (That was Sarah.) But Sam and Jill were **not able** to have any more children. (Oh no!)



The tiny baby waiting in the special freezer **needed** a mommy. She needed Sam and Jill to help her.

Sam and Jill **loved** their embryo who was waiting to be born. They knew that she was **made by Jesus** and **belonged to Jesus** and they wanted to make sure that she got a chance to grow up.



Sam and Jill got help from the **Snowflakes® Embryo Adoption Program**

to find a good family who would adopt their embryo.

Adoption means becoming a  
**forever member**  
of a new family.



When you are adopted,  
**you belong** to your adoptive  
family and **they belong** to you  
**forever.**

When families adopt children,  
it gives a picture of the bigger  
and more perfect way that God  
adopts us

**through Jesus.**





God **loves** adopting people into his family through Jesus. He also **loves** caring for children who need a human family.



Before they adopted Sarah, Sarah's Mommy, **Lily**, and her Daddy, **Nick**, already had three **awesome kids**. But they still wanted to adopt.

God had put some of his **special love** for children who need a family into their hearts.

When Lily and Nick found out about all the embryos (like Sarah) waiting for a family to help them grow up, they called the Snowflakes® Embryo Adoption program and asked how they could help. The Snowflakes® team

helped Lily and Nick to adopt Sarah.



At first Lily and Nick called their tiny adopted embryo "Baby Popcorn" because they didn't know yet if she was a boy or a girl. God knew that she was a girl. He had already designed Sarah to have beautiful gray eyes, curly light brown hair, and excellent dance moves.

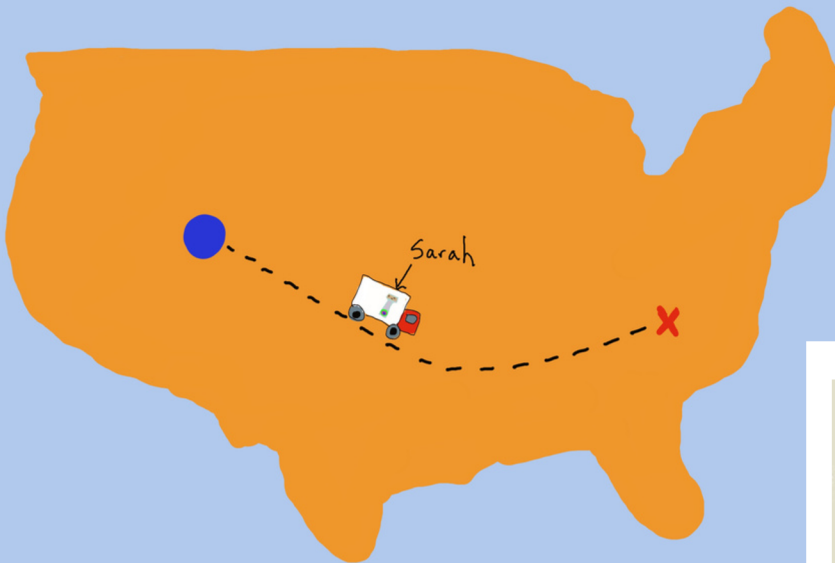
God's plan for her body just couldn't be seen yet because she was too small.





When Lily and Nick found out that their tiny baby was a girl, they named her **Sarah**.

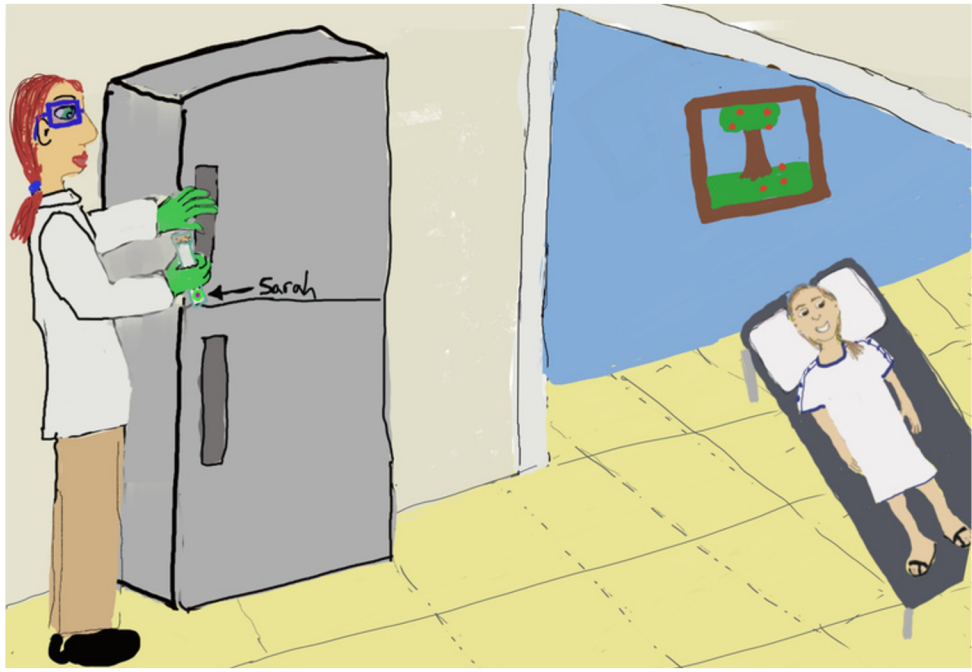
Even after God brought her a mommy, Sarah had to face many hard things before she could be born.



First she had to ride on a truck in a special freezer across the country to get from Jill's doctor's office to Lily's doctor's office so that she could be placed inside Lily's body.

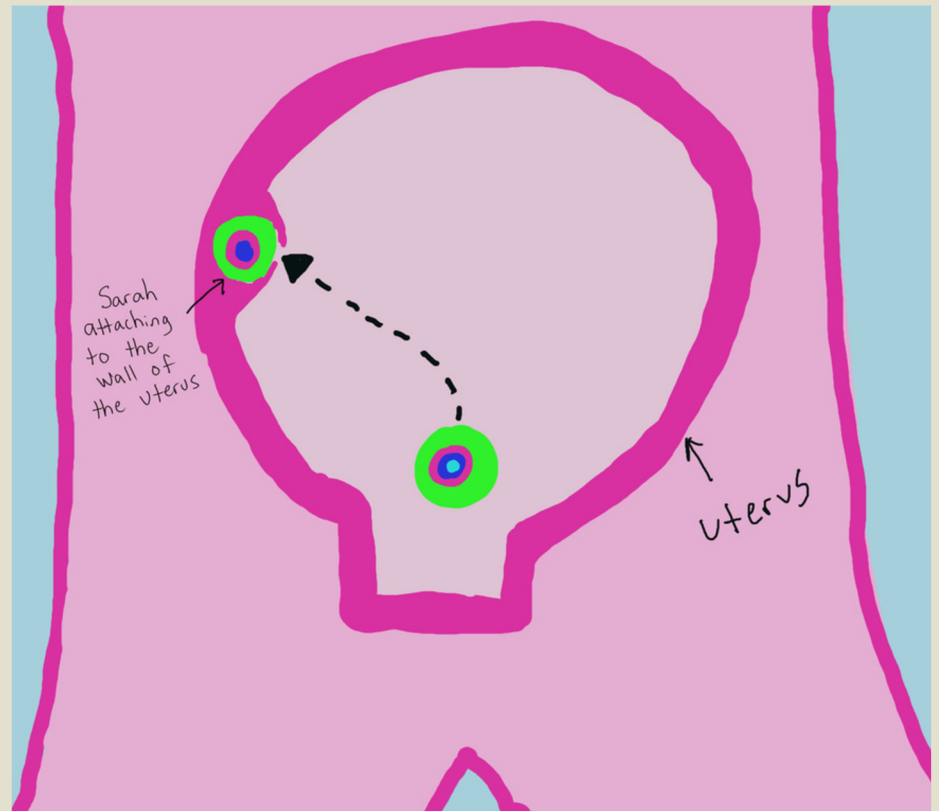
Then Lily had to receive lots of medicines and blood tests to get her uterus ready for Sarah to live in. (The uterus is the special place inside the woman's body where babies grow.)





After that, Sarah had to be taken out of the special freezer and warmed up so that she could be put inside Lily's body.

Once Sarah was put inside Lily's body, she had to attach to one of the walls of the uterus and start to grow.





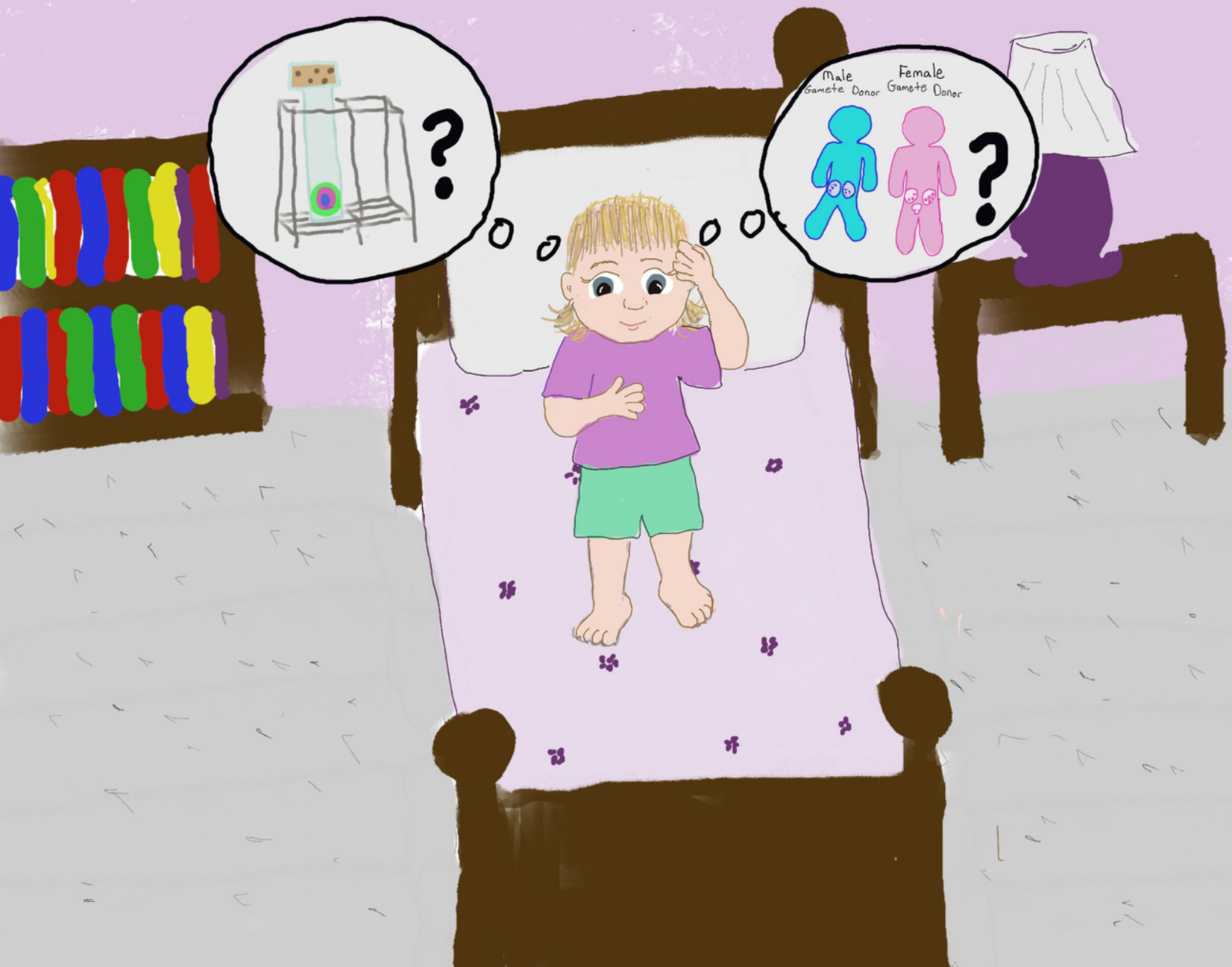
All of these steps were dangerous for Sarah, so when her family found out that she was starting to grow inside of Lily's body, they all cried happy tears and said **thank you** to God.



Now Sarah has come out of Lily's tummy and has grown big enough to run and laugh and paint the dining room table in blueberry juice. She **loves** her family and her family **loves** her.

As she gets older, Sarah may feel upset that her story started in a different way than other kids or that she was made using gametes from people she doesn't know.

But maybe not.

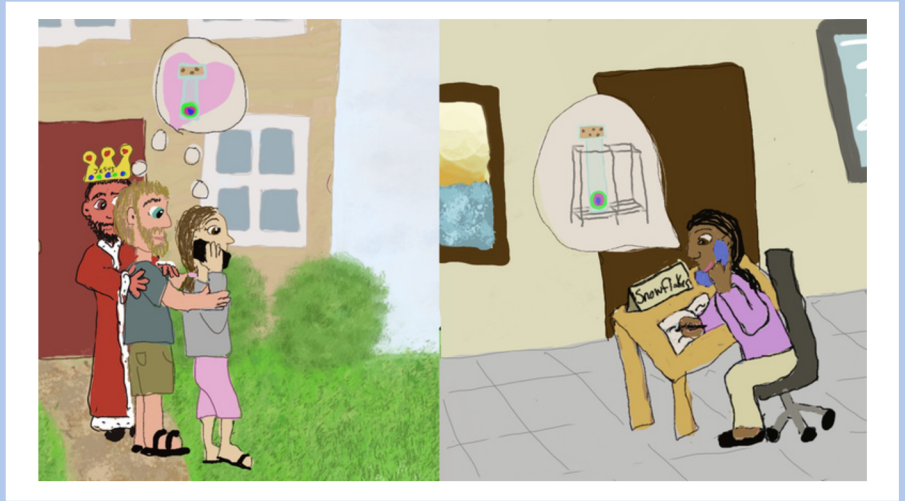


If Sarah does feel sad, there are things that Lily and Nick can do to help. If Sarah is curious about her gamete donors, Lily and Nick can share information that they have kept for her about them. If Sarah wants to look for other people that were created using her gamete donors, Lily and Nick can help her use websites that are designed to do that.



Lily and Nick can also remind Sarah about what is **special and sweet** about her story. Sarah's story includes God protecting her and providing for her even before she was born.

God helped Sarah find a family when she was waiting for a chance to grow up.



He kept her safe on the truck ride across the country to Lily's doctor's office.



He helped Lily's medicines to work so that Lily's body would be a safe place for Sarah.





He kept Sarah safe when she was taken out of the special freezer and put inside Lily's body,

and he helped her to attach and to grow inside Lily's uterus.





Sarah's story also includes being loved by two families. Jill and Sam kept Sarah safe while they looked for a new family for her **because** they loved her. Lily and Nick did all of the hard steps of adopting her and giving her a home in Lily's body **because** they loved her. Sarah was loved **very much** even before she was born.



Now Sarah is a **forever member** of Lily and Nick's family. She has five people racing to her crib every morning and five pairs of arms to snuggle her or bring her toys. She has two sisters willing to dance to her favorite song on repeat and a brother always ready to give her shoulder rides. She has a mommy to cuddle her to sleep and a daddy to hold her when she feels scared. She is

very dearly

loved.



Doctors and scientists helped to get Sarah's story started, but it is God who made their work succeed. God is the one who started Sarah's story and he will finish it.



Sarah's story has been very special so far and her family is excited to see how her story will turn out.



All people were made by Jesus, to show the world how good he is. We are praying that Sarah's story will do just that.

*For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.*

Colossians 1.16-17 ESV

# How Does God Adopt Us Into His Family?

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

# Resources for Parents

Embryo Adoption Awareness Center  
<https://embryoadoption.org/>

The Donor Sibling Registry  
<https://donorsiblingregistry.com/>

National Embryo Donation Center  
<https://www.embryodonation.org/>

Snowflakes® Embryo Adoption Program  
<https://nightlight.org/snowflakes-embryo-adoption-donation/>

## Acknowledgements

Thank you to my **amazing** husband and kids, who gave me time to work on this project and shared their great ideas. Thanks to the families with embryo adopted children and to the Snowflakes® Embryo Adoption team for taking time to read my book and give feedback.