

The Adventure Begins

14 Devotions for New Believers

Roller Coaster

Memorize This: In this world you will have trouble. But be encouraged! I have won the battle over the world. - John 16:33 (NirV)

Big Idea: God will help me when life is hard.

Think About This:

Have you ever ridden a roller coaster? Or at least seen one? A roller coaster is one crazy, wild ride. Why? Because of the ups and downs and twists and turns.

It's kind of like our life with God.

Some days following Jesus is awesome. You know God loves you. You have great Christian friends and church is fun. But then, before you know it, the bottom drops out and you find yourself plunging into a crazy situation. Maybe it's a bully who's making your life miserable or someone you love who gets sick or dies or your dad loses his job or you have to move.

And you think, "Wait a minute. This following Jesus business isn't so much fun any more."

Well, the fact is that following Jesus is like a roller coaster. Sometimes you have ups, and they're really cool, but sometimes you have downs, and they can be scary and hard.

Sometimes you have twists and turns that you didn't expect. Sometimes you have to face the big T's—trouble, tragedy, and tough situations—but the good news is you will never have to face them alone.

Even when life seems bad, God is good. Always believe that no matter how bad things may look.

So, how do we get through those tough times when following Jesus isn't fun? The same way we get through a roller coaster. By holding on tight!

When we hold on tight to Jesus, we remember that whatever we face, God is with us. He will tell us what to do and give us the power to do it. We don't have to be afraid. We don't have to worry. We just have to keep our eyes on Jesus and listen to Him.

There's a great story in the Bible about a time when Jesus' friends were out in a boat and encountered a big, scary storm. Was Jesus worried? Nope. He was actually taking a nap in the boat. So His friends woke Him up and said, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" He got up and ordered the wind to stop. He said to the waves, 'Quiet! Be still!' Then the wind died down. And it was completely calm" (Mark 4:38-39 NIV).

Jesus brings peace when life gets stormy. So the next time you're facing a tough situation, spend some time talking to Him about it and remember that He promises to always be with you and love you no matter what.

Put It Into Action:

Draw a picture of a calm sea to remind you that Jesus can help you have peace even when life gets stormy.

Prayer:

God, thank you for being with me when life is hard. Help me to turn to you when I face tough situations and trust that you will help me through it. Amen.