

Jesus is With Us

Colossians 3:23 says, “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for others, knowing that from the Lord you will receive heaven as your reward.”

Jesus walks along with us every day. We tend to forget this, why? Because we can't see him or hear him. Let's pretend that we can see Jesus and that we can see his eyes looking at us, his loving smile on us. Let's see how we would behave.

I'll tell you a situation. You think about what you would do if Jesus was standing right beside you:

You're taking a test in school. You suddenly realize you don't know any of the answers! You also realize that the smartest girl in the class is sitting right beside you. This could be an easy A! But you turn around. There he is, watching you. It's Jesus. What do you do? Let's think about it. Do you try to strike a deal with the teacher for extra credit, figure out what went wrong, or do you try to copy her? Or do you just accept that you will get a bad grade and possibly get in trouble?

It's lunchtime on your field trip you are starved! And you realize your mom packed your favorite sandwich for the picnic ground. On your favorite bread. And an apple. And carrot sticks. But you're really excited about your favorite sandwich, because everyone knows carrots and apples don't fill you up. A girl across the table is watching you. She's got tears in her eyes. "I'm starved and I forgot my lunch," she says. Other kids are edging away from her at the table, all, "I'm starved. I'll give you my orange but none of my sandwich." You start to offer her your carrots, thinking, "Stupid, how could you forget your lunch?? Is it my fault you were a lame brain?" **And there you see him standing at the head of the table. Jesus is there watching you. What do you do?** Think about it. Do you ignore her? Do you give her your least favorite snack? Do you talk to the other kids and get them to help too so you don't have to give up too much? Maybe the answer is that Jesus would miraculously fill up somebody who was extra generous.

Your mom has asked you to sweep the whole first floor. Your friends are waiting for you outside. It's a gorgeous day. If Mom is having ladies over to the house, how is that your problem? You can't find the dust bin.

You've looked around twice already. The rug is right there. All you have to do is sweep the whole load of dust under the rug. Jesus has been right beside you, encouraging you through this task you really want none of. **What do you do?** Do you finish the job the right way even though it takes longer, or do you hide it under the rug? What would you have done differently if Jesus were right there? The thing is that Jesus is always with us. He sees everything, and he is there to encourage us through everything.

How should we treat our school work? How should we treat people in need? How should we treat our homes, when our parents ask for our help? We need to always remember that Jesus wants all of us: our hearts, souls and minds. We don't have to do everything perfectly, because we can't. But we should live our lives like our rewards in heaven matter. After all, we will have them for eternity, and our time on earth is not long at all in comparison.

Let's think of things that we can improve on, things where we feel we should be giving Jesus a better effort. Then let's start doing better.

Remember....Jesus is ALWAYS with us.



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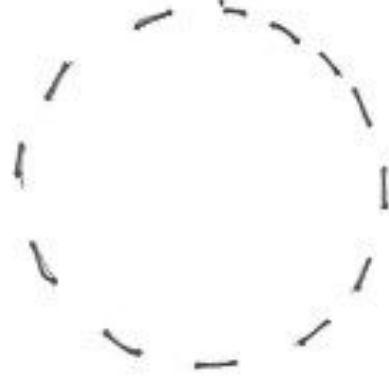


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Print out and color these take-along cards. Put one in your pocket, backpack or lunch box to remind you that JESUS is WITH YOU EVERYWHERE you go!

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Jesus



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