



Melk, the Christmas Monkey

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Artwork by Kat Reader & Erin Salazar

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Good morning _____,

And just in time too, it looks like!

This friend needed help. He apparently got stuck trying to get a Christmas treat, and I am helping to get him un-stuck.

Did you know that God does this for us? Psalm 40:2 says
"He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings."

As you enjoy the sweet treat today, think about times that God has helped you to get un-stuck, showed you the way to go or thing to do and helped you. And remember to always lend a hand when you see a friend in need too!

Your Friend, _____

www.MelkTheChristmasMonkey.com - 31

Hi _____!

I am counting down the days 'til Christmas because I LOVE Christmas! Counting down to Christmas is also called "advent" which means the waiting time. For many many years God promised the world that his Son, the Messiah would come, and when Jesus was born in Bethlehem, it was God keeping his promise. "There hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant" (1 Kings 8:56).

There is another promise God has made to us. That he will come back to earth to get all of his children some day. "Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh" (James 5:8). Just like he has kept his promises throughout history, we know he will keep that promise too and we can wait for his coming. In the meantime though, lets make a countdown calendar today for Advent, to count down the waiting days until Christmas!

Excitedly, _____

www.MelkTheChristmasMonkey.com - 32

Hello _____!

Have you ever seen a sheep? They are totally dependent on their shepherd, for food, for water, for where to go, for protection. They are scared little things that know their shepherd's voice and follow only him. They are comforted by the sound of his voice and his song.

God wants us to be like sheep. To trust him for our every need, because he says in his Word that he is our Good Shepherd. He restores our soul and leads us in paths of righteousness or goodness.

Today, we're going to make a sheep to help us remember to be like one. Content to trust and only follow our Good Shepherd.

Love, _____

www.MelkTheChristmasMonkey.com - 33

Good Morning _____!

Tea is so fascinating to me! It's plants all dried up but when you add hot water the flavor comes out. Did you know that God says what is in our hearts comes out in our words (Matthew 12), just like the flavor of the tea bag comes out into the hot water and flavors it? But without honey or sugar, tea sometimes is not so good. It needs to be sweetened.

Our hearts and the words we speak need to be sweetened with God's Words too because the Bible says his words are sweet just like the honey we add to our tea (Psalm 19)! As you enjoy your tea sweetened with honey today, think about ways you can use God's Words to sweeten your conversations with family members and friends.

Your Sweet Tea Loving Friend, _____

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Good Morning _____!

Have you ever been invited to a fancy dinner? Sometimes there are 4 forks on the table! lots of shiny dishes and crystal goblets. It's so beautiful and elegant, and everyone sits and eats slowly, enjoying the meal that the servers serve to them, without a care in the world.

Did you know that in the Psalms David spoke of God as our protector who sets a fancy table for us, and serves us, so that our needs are met, and we can be calm, satisfied, and safe in Him. When he is with us we need not fear any evil that may be around us. Read it in Psalm 23! "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies..."

Today, we're going to learn how to set a fancy table, because you just never know when you might get invited to something fancy and you'll need to stay calm and know which fork to use first!

Have Fun!, _____

www.MelkTheChristmasMonkey.com - 35

Hi _____!

Did you see the snowfall? You're looking out the window? No, right here in this room! Don't the balloons look like snow? Well, they remind me of snow. Do you know what the Bible says about snow? That God has a purpose and plan for snow, just like he has a perfect plan for each of our lives. We may not understand in the moment what he is doing, but he will accomplish his perfect purpose! And we can count on that because he always keeps his word!

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." Isaiah 55:8-11

Enjoy your snow! I mean, balloons, _____

www.MelkTheChristmasMonkey.com - 36

Good Morning _____!

I hope you rested well last night. I did, but I realized, Christmas can be hard work. Sometimes we get so busy, we forget to rest. And if we don't have time to rest, we don't have time to sit and learn of God through his Word.

Don't you think it's time we rested, read his Book, and remembered the person Christmas is all about?

Today's activity to make time to quiet yourself, and to think about God and his son Jesus. To remember that he came from heaven to earth as a baby at Christmas to grow up into the sinless man who would die on the cross in your place and mine, offering us forgiveness, life, adoption, and rest for our souls. He wants us to rest our eternal hope in him, but also to physically rest and learn of him.

Today, I give you permission to rest, _____

www.MelkTheChristmasMonkey.com - 37 Alternate

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Today, I give you permission to rest, _____

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Hey hey _____!

Do you know what's so amazing about God? He made us and knows us and loves us, but he also cares for us. The flowers that grow outside. He knows what each one needs to live and provides it for them without them asking.

And in Mathew 6 he says he knows what needs we have before we ask him too! Before we tell him about our troubles or our needs, he already knows and is working to provide for us. Today we're going to make flowers, so that each time we see them we'll remember that God provides our needs every time!

Your Flower-Loving Friend, _____

Hello There!

Can you guess what I am thinking about today? That's right, a king! But not just any King. King Jesus is King of all creation by right of birth. He was born in a manger to a poor family long ago, it's true, but he is Son to The Creator God, and the Bible says he sits at the right hand of God the Father interceding for us, his people. He is the King over all other Kings in the whole world. And someday he's coming back to take his people to be with him.

If you have asked Jesus to save you, you are a prince or princess, adopted by our Father God and an heir of heaven as well. You also deserve to wear a crown to remember that you are royalty. If you haven't asked King Jesus to save you from your sins, ask your mom or dad or another adult to explain how you can be forgiven and adopted today. Then have fun making a crown!

Your Loyal Royal Friend, _____

Happy Day to you _____!

I am happy to see you today! Christmas is a great time for happiness, but did you know that for some people it's also a very sad time? There are lots of hurting people in the world, and often hurts hurt worse during holiday times.

I had a little accident and got hurt but these bandaids remind me that God is our healer. That He delights to heal those who are hurting and those who are broken hearted, sad and alone. But I had a hard time getting these bandaids on all by myself. I needed help. And sometimes people need a little help to see the healing God is offering them too.

Can you think of anyone today who might be feeling sad or alone? Could you be a helper? I want you to think of someone you could cheer up and then send them a nice card or gift, or go with your parents to see them and try to cheer them up. You might even use some of God's words from 1 Samuel 12:22 or Nahum 1:7 to sweeten the message. What do you say? I hope it's yes!

Your Healing Friend,

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Hi _____!

We've talked before about how God is our Creator. But did you know that God delights not just in creating, but in making things beautiful!?

Ecclesiastes 3 talks about how God gives seasons and times for everything to happen. It's all planned by him and his sovereign control, but he says "He hath made every thing beautiful in his time:" too!

God love to create beauty. He created beautiful things from nothing at Creation (Genesis 1) and he continues to create beauty even from our mistakes and mess-ups in life. Let's think about all the beauty God gives us at Christmas time as we enjoy coloring today and making something beautiful ourselves.

Love, _____

www.MelkTheChristmasMonkey.com - 41

Hi _____!

Are you ready for some fun? I've been sitting here thinking about rocks and what they say. That's right, marble says elegant and costly. Shale says brittle and fragile. Alabaster in the Bible is fragile but precious. God is called our rock in the Bible, but he is the kind of rock that is strong and capable to support us through storms and centuries.

2 Samuel 22:3 says that God is "my rock, my shield, and my salvation. My savior, my refuge and I will trust in him." Isn't it amazing that God and his word can be such a strong foundation and protection for our lives when we trust him and hide his words in our hearts!

Let's paint some rocks today and give them to a friend, or go hide them at your local park for others to find and read the message that God can be their rock too!

Your loving Friend, _____