

Snatched Up to Heaven for Kids



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Jemima Paul with Arvind Paul



Emma Has an Amazing Dream

Eight-year-old Emma and six-year-old Bella live with their parents and their baby sister in a cozy little house, in a neighborhood that probably looks a lot like yours.

Emma and Bella have everything a little girl could want. They have clothes to wear, food to eat, toys to play with, friends to laugh with, a swing set in their back yard, and a mommy and a daddy who love them very much.

Emma and Bella's mommy and daddy love them so much that they teach the girls all about God. They want Emma and Bella to know how much God loves them. They also want Emma and Bella to love Him back.

That's why every night, before Emma and Bella go to sleep, Mommy and Daddy read to them from the Bible and pray with them.

One night, after Emma's mommy and daddy had tucked her into bed, she had a dream about God and about heaven.

When she woke up the next morning, she couldn't wait to tell her parents and little sister all about it.

"I had a dream about heaven last night!" she told them, full of excitement.

Her parents were excited and curious to hear what Emma had to say, so they sat down with her and said, "Tell us all about it."

“Bella and I were both in our beds when suddenly some angels came and carried us to heaven. We were flying! We even went through the clouds like when we were in the airplane going to visit Grandma and Grandpa,” Emma told them.

“Wow!” Bella said. “That’s cool!”

“That’s not all,” Emma told her. “The angels let go of us, but we weren’t even scared. A big wind that was strong but soft pushed us forward, and suddenly we were walking on grass, the greenest grass I’ve ever seen.”

“Then what? Then what?” Bella asked excitedly.

“Yes, tell us what happened next,” Mommy and Daddy said at the same time.

Emma told them that they got to see many wonderful things in heaven. After that, Jesus and some of His angels brought them home again.

“That was a very special dream,” Daddy told her. “God must have something very important He wants you girls to do. He must have shown you heaven so that you would know how important it is to always obey Him so you can go to live there someday.”

Emma thought about what her daddy said. She thought that God might want her to tell other people how special heaven is so they will want to go there too. This made Emma want to know more and more about heaven, so she prayed every night that God would let her go back there in her dreams.

God answered Emma’s prayer by letting her and Bella visit heaven several more times in her dreams. Each time she dreamed they went to heaven, Jesus and some of the angels lifted Emma and Bella out of their beds and carried them there.



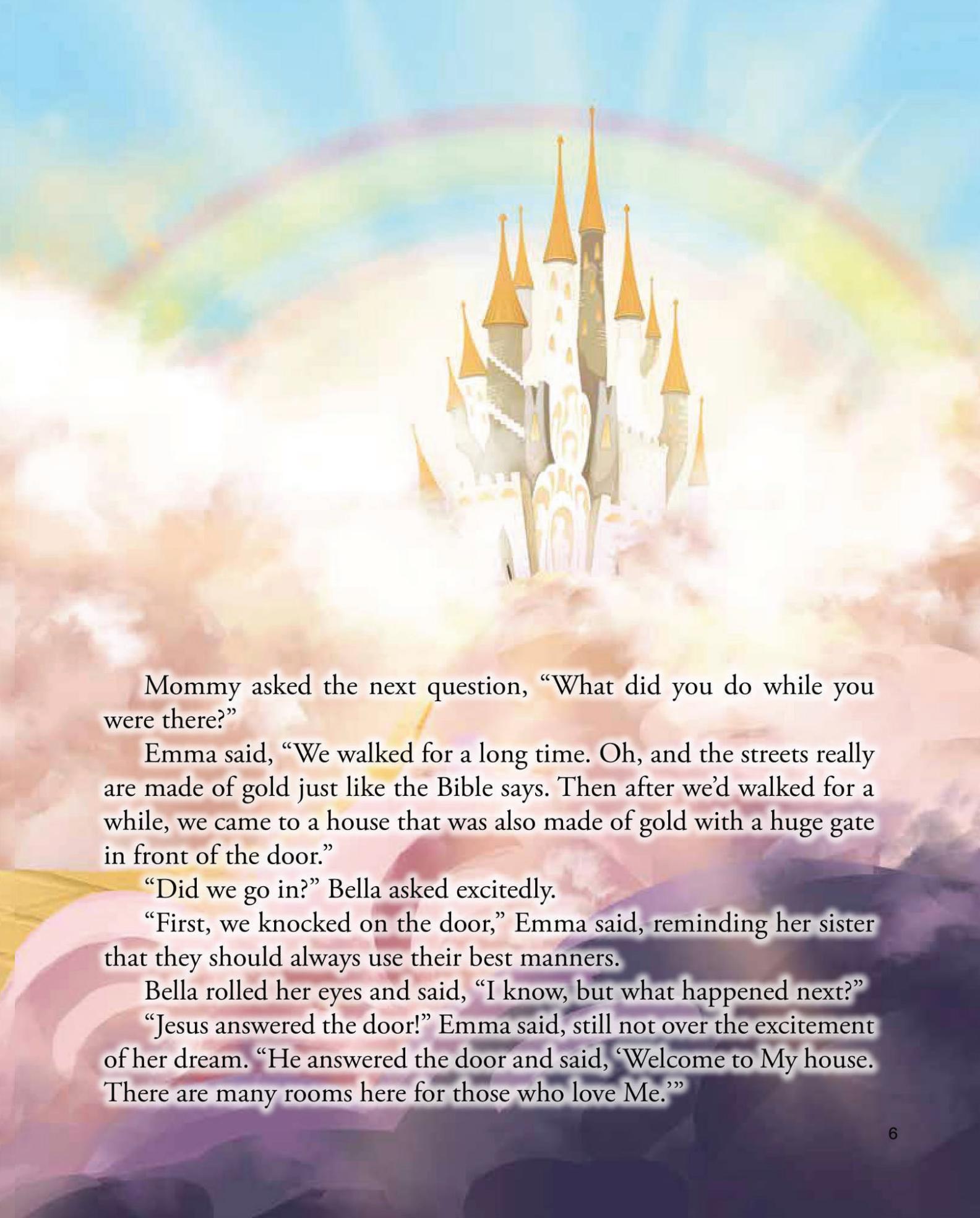
Emma Sees a Golden House

The second time Emma told her family about going to heaven in her dreams, Bella had a question. “What did heaven look like?” she wanted to know.

Emma’s eyes and smile grew wide as she spoke. “Heaven is the most beautiful place ever! It is very big and sparkly. I also saw a huge rainbow.”

Next, Emma told her family that there were no lights in heaven. Jesus was like a lamp, lighting up everything. And heaven wasn’t hot or cold —it was just right, like the perfect spring day.





Mommy asked the next question, “What did you do while you were there?”

Emma said, “We walked for a long time. Oh, and the streets really are made of gold just like the Bible says. Then after we’d walked for a while, we came to a house that was also made of gold with a huge gate in front of the door.”

“Did we go in?” Bella asked excitedly.

“First, we knocked on the door,” Emma said, reminding her sister that they should always use their best manners.

Bella rolled her eyes and said, “I know, but what happened next?”

“Jesus answered the door!” Emma said, still not over the excitement of her dream. “He answered the door and said, ‘Welcome to My house. There are many rooms here for those who love Me.’”

When Emma stopped talking, Bella asked her parents if they thought this was what heaven was really like. Mommy said she thought it was because the Bible talked about all the things Emma saw in her dream.

Daddy agreed. Then for the next few minutes, he read to them some verses from the Bible that talked about everything Emma saw in her dreams.

Rainbow: “Around the throne was a rainbow shining like an emerald.”¹

Light: “The city does not need the sun or moon to shine on it. God’s glory is its light, and the Lamb is its lamp.”²

Streets of gold: “The main street of the city was made out of gold.”³

Golden house: “The city was made out of pure gold, as pure as glass.”⁴

Gate: “The city had a huge, high wall with twelve gates.”⁵

Door: “There was a door standing open in heaven.”⁶

Rooms: “There are many rooms in My Father’s house.”⁷

1. Revelation 4:3

2. Revelation 21:23

3. Revelation 21:21

4. Revelation 21:18

5. Revelation 21:12

6. Revelation 4:1

7. John 14:2



Emma dreamed about heaven almost every night, and on the nights she did, she always woke up excited and happy to share what she had seen.

One morning, after she had visited heaven in her dreams, she told her family that heaven was filled with all sorts of plants and trees and gardens that were more beautiful than anything we can imagine.

“I saw all sorts of fruit growing on the trees. Oranges, grapes, bananas, and lots more. There were different colored flowers with jewels in the petals. I even saw golden flowers. Oh, and there were lots of animals too,” Emma said, almost relieved.

“I’m glad there are animals in heaven,” Bella sighed. “I love animals.”

Emma agreed. She also said that in heaven, no one was afraid of the animals and that all the animals got along with each other.

“The Bible tells us that too,” Mommy said. “It says that wolves and lambs will live happily together. Goats will lie down with leopards, instead of being terrified and running away. Rather than eating calves, lions will share a meal with them. And little children will lead fierce animals around.”⁸

^{8.} Isaiah 11:6

Emma Makes Some New Friends

After Emma finished telling her family what heaven looked like in her dreams, her daddy asked, “Emma, who have you seen in heaven?”

“Well, I’ve seen Jesus, of course,” she said.

“What did He look like?” Daddy asked.

“Jesus is very handsome,” Emma said. “He is tall and has brown hair. He was wearing a white outfit that was so clean it was almost sparkly. He had a red thing, kind of like a belt, across His shoulder and around His waist. He also had a golden crown on His head.”

“When I saw Him, He was sitting next to God. God looked a lot like Jesus except He was wearing a red robe with a white thing around His shoulder and waist.” Emma stopped talking for a minute before saying, “The weird thing about it was that Jesus and God looked the same age. Not young, not old. Just...just...in between.”

“Was I there too?” Bella asked.

“Yes, we go everywhere together in heaven,” Emma answered.



"What did we do when we saw Him?" Bella asked nervously.

"We hugged Jesus and gave Him a kiss," Emma said with a smile. "We weren't afraid at all. You even asked Jesus if you could see the places on His hands and feet where the nails had been when He was hung on the cross to die."

"I did!" Bella gasped.

Emma giggled. "Yep, you sure did. And Jesus didn't mind at all. He showed us the tiny red marks, gave us a little hug and a kiss, and told us how much He loved us."

Bella couldn't believe it. She had gotten a hug and kiss from Jesus!

Mommy laughed, seeing the look on Bella's face. "Jesus wants to give us hugs and kisses, my sweet Bella. You don't have to be embarrassed or afraid."

Daddy agreed and reminded his daughters what Jesus said about heaven belonging to those who were as innocent as children.

"Children are humble and are willing to learn, the way He wants everyone to be. That's why Jesus said that the most important people in heaven will be those who are as humble as children."⁹

"God and Jesus weren't the only people Bella and I saw," Emma said after her daddy had finished talking. "There were lots of angels. They were dressed in white, kind of like Jesus. There were people too. Lots of people. No two people looked alike just like on earth. But everyone looked the same age. Not old and not young. Just... in between. Everyone was so happy and friendly, and they looked like princes and princesses."

"They are royalty because everyone there is a child of the King," her mommy replied.

^{9.} Matthew 18:4



Bella looked a little confused.

“What’s wrong?” her daddy asked.

“Nothing, really. I’m just not sure about the angels being all dressed in white. I thought that was just a story,” she replied.

Daddy thought about what Bella was saying for a moment before answering. “I know it talks about angels in white robes somewhere in the Bible. Give me a minute or two, and I’ll find some verses for us to read.”

While Daddy was looking through his Bible, Mommy asked, “Did you meet anyone else in heaven?”

“Oh, yes. We met a lot of people we have learned about in Sunday school and in the Bible stories you read to us. We met Queen Esther there! She looked very beautiful and was wearing a tiara. We also met Noah who built the ark, and he had a long beard,” Emma told her.

“I found the verses I was looking for,” Daddy announced. “I’ll read them now. ‘Mary saw two angels dressed in white’ and ‘Angels were dressed in clean, shining linen.’”¹⁰

“So they really do wear white,” Bella said, “except when they come down to earth to help us, right?”

“I think you are right,” Mommy agreed.

^{10.} John 20:12 and Revelation 15:6



Emma Has Lots of Fun

Emma told her family that one of the best things about heaven is that everyone is strong and healthy there.

“In one of my dreams, Bella had a stomach ache when we went to bed. But when we got to heaven, she felt fine. And do you remember the other day when I fell off the swing and my knee was bleeding?” she asked. “The very next night, I dreamed about heaven. And when Bella and I got there, the cut was gone!”

“That’s wonderful, honey,” Mommy said. “The Bible tells us that there will be no sickness or pain in heaven. Now you have seen that for yourself.”

“Yes, it is,” Daddy agreed. “But you know how I like to stay busy, that I don’t like sitting around doing nothing. So, can I ask if you saw the people in heaven doing anything?”

Emma started giggling again. “Don’t worry, Daddy,” she said. “Heaven is lots of fun. Everyone was doing something. A lot of the people were worshipping Jesus and God, clapping and singing praise songs like we sing at church. Some people were playing games, and some were dancing. Other people were playing in this big, beautiful water fountain. I even saw some people picking fruit and vegetables from the garden, but it wasn’t like work. It was easy.”



"If there are fruits and vegetables in heaven, does that mean we eat?" Bella asked. "And what about sleeping? Do we do that, or are we just always awake and never tired?"

"Those are good questions, Bella," Daddy said with a smile.

"Yes, while we were there, we went to eat," Emma answered. "The food was delicious, and there was plenty for everyone."

Emma then told her family about the beds. "They were beautiful and very cozy and comfortable. But Jesus and God never go to sleep. They never stop watching over us, not for a single second!"

Emma's dreams gave her and her family a lot to think about. Together, they read in the Bible about God giving visions and dreams to people.¹¹

Some parents might not believe their children if they told them they had gone to heaven in their dreams, but Emma's mommy and daddy did. They knew Emma's experiences were real because everything she told them about heaven was exactly the same as the Bible says it is.

^{11.} Acts 2:17



Another time, after dreaming she and Bella had visited heaven, Emma asked, “Mommy and Daddy, did you know God gives people different rewards in heaven?”

“What do you mean?” asked Daddy.

“In heaven, God gives some of us bigger rewards and some of us smaller rewards for what we do here on earth,” Emma said.

“That doesn’t seem fair,” Bella said.

“I agree,” Emma nodded.

The girls’ parents reminded them that God’s ways are always perfect and good. “If God does it,” Mommy said, “it is the right thing to do.”

Emma and Bella agreed but said it was a little hard to understand.

Daddy read them another verse. “Jesus says, ‘I bring my rewards with me. I will reward each person for what they have done.’”¹²

“God made everyone and everything,” Mommy said. “He gets to choose what He does with each of us.”

“Mommy is right,” Daddy said. “God rewards us when we obey, and He disciplines us when we disobey. Just like Mommy and I do when you and Bella obey or disobey,” he added with a smile.

“I get it now,” Bella said, feeling very grown up. “God does that because He’s our father.”

“That’s right, Bella,” Daddy said.

Emma and Bella looked at each other and agreed they were learning a lot of wonderful things about heaven and about God’s love for them.

^{12.} Revelation 22:12





Emma Sees Something Scary

“Mommy!” Emma cried out late one night. “Mommy!”

Emma’s mommy hurried into Emma and Bella’s bedroom. “What’s wrong, Emma?” she asked.

Emma hugged her mommy tight. She was shaking.

“What’s wrong, Emma?” her mommy asked again.

Emma told her mommy she had another dream. But this time, instead of taking her to heaven, Jesus showed her and Bella what hell was like.

“Are you sure that’s what was happening?” Mommy asked.

“Yes,” Emma said, nodding her head up and down. “And it was bad.”

Emma took a deep breath and told her mommy what she saw. “Hell was hot and scary. We saw fire everywhere, but the fire didn’t give any light. It was still dark. But when Jesus walked closer, the place got brighter. We could see inside.”

“What did you see inside?” her mommy asked.

“I saw people. There are lots of people in hell right now! There was a cave, and the people closest to the front of the cave looked sad and lonely. But the farther we looked into the cave, the hotter it got, and people were screaming and yelling. There were worms biting the people, and they cried out in pain. The worms grew to be like huge snakes deeper inside the cave.”



Emma took another deep breath. "They wore no clothes and had no hair. They were hungry and thirsty since there was no food or water for them in hell. There were no beds for them to rest in when they were tired. There were no medicines to heal them. They were trying to escape from hell but were slipping back into the fire," she sobbed.

"That's sad, isn't it?" Mommy said.

Emma nodded and then said, "Satan was there. He has bad angels called demons. They don't like Jesus at all, but they are scared of Him. They know He is God's Son and that He is much more powerful than they are."



Mommy gave her a hug and said, “I’m sorry you had such a scary dream. Let’s go get Daddy and tell him about it.”

Emma said she would like that, so they woke Daddy up and told him about the dream.

After Emma finished talking, her daddy asked her, “Emma, why do you think you had that dream?”

Emma thought for a minute, then said, “I think God gave me that dream so I would know that hell is a real place just like heaven is.”

“I think you are right,” her daddy agreed. “Hell is a real place, and people who don’t let Jesus save them from their sins will be there someday instead of going to heaven.”

“That’s really sad,” Emma said. “Sad and scary. I don’t want anyone to go to hell.”

“I don’t either,” Mommy and Daddy said at the same time.

“That’s why we need to tell everyone we can how they can go to heaven,” Mommy said.

Just then, Bella walked into the room, rubbing her eyes. “What’s going on?” she asked sleepily.

Daddy told Bella about Emma’s dream.

“I don’t want anyone to go to hell either,” Bella said softly.



Emma Learns What She Must Do

“How do we tell people about Jesus so they can go to heaven?” Emma asked. “What should we say?”

Daddy thought for a moment and then said, “We need to tell them that Jesus is God’s Son and that He died on the cross as a punishment for our sins.”

Bella quoted John 3:16: “God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son. Anyone who believes in Him will not die but will have eternal life.”

“That’s right,” Mommy said, giving her a hug. “We all do wrong things, but the Bible tells us what we have to do to be saved from our sins and hell. If you say with your mouth ‘Jesus is Lord’ and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”¹³

“But don’t we have to do more than just believe?” Emma asked. “The people I saw in hell now believe that Jesus is real, but they are still in hell.”

“That’s a good and important question,” Mommy told her.

Daddy reminded the girls that when we sin, God forgives us if we are really and truly sorry. “To be truly sorry means we repent. This means we change the way we think and act so we don’t do the same thing again.”

“So you see, girls,” Daddy said, “when we believe that Jesus is God’s Son and that He was punished for our sins on the cross, we should repent. Then God will forgive us, and God’s Holy Spirit will help us do what He wants us to do.”

“I’m going to tell everyone I can about Jesus and how they can be saved from hell,” Emma said firmly.

“That’s what Jesus wants us to do,” Daddy said. “That’s exactly what Jesus wants us to do.”

^{13.} Romans 10:9



Parents

Hell is a very real place just like heaven is. God is patiently waiting, that many might repent, confess, and accept Jesus as their Savior. But God's patience will eventually run out. Please don't take that chance—with your own salvation or that of your children. Teach them to know and love God. Teach them who Jesus is and that salvation is found in no one else but Him.

