

## Mayday! Mayday!

**M**om opened the kitchen door and grinned at me. “I’m done with my preflight checks, Ben,” she said. “The plane is ready.”

I closed my Bible and stood up. “I’m ready. Let’s go!”

As we walked across the backyard to the hanger beside the barn, I gazed up at the blue sky. What a great day for flying!

“Kids at school say I’m the luckiest kid in the world, because my parents are pilots and we have our own airplane on the farm,” I said as we climbed into the cockpit of our little white Cessna.

“I don’t call that luck, Ben. I call it a blessing. Airplanes have been in our family ever since your great-grandpa flew in World War II.” She paused. “You’re bringing your Bible along?”

I nodded. “I was confused about something. When I asked my Sunday School teacher, he wrote down some verses to look up and asked me to tell him the answer on Sunday.”

Mom chuckled. “Mr. Mackey sounds like a wise teacher.”

Because our dirt runway is on our farm and not at an airport, Mom did not have to radio anyone for permission to take off. She just started the engine and let the Cessna roll forward.

We sped faster and faster until—liftoff! Within seconds, we were soaring above the treetops.

When we reached four thousand feet, Mom leveled off. Houses, barns, and cows looked like toys beneath us.

Excited to be in the sky, I laughed. Even though I’m only in fourth grade, I’m looking forward to getting my pilot’s license someday.

While Mom flew, I continued looking up Bible verses. What I wanted to know is, Who is Jesus really? Some verses call Him a king. Other verses call Him the Son of Man. Still others call Him the Son of God. I already knew that He came to die for us, and I trusted Him as my Savior. But what does it mean to say that He’s God?

After a while, Mom reached for my Bible and said, “Your turn.”

That’s what I’d been waiting for. I couldn’t take off or land, of course, but with Mom or Dad beside me, I liked to steer the Cessna once we were airborne. “I’ll read your verses to you while you fly,” Mom offered. “Which one are you on?”

“I’m down to the last reference written on my bookmark.”

Mom read Hebrews 1:8 which uses the name “God” to refer to the Son.

I began to understand. “So Jesus is a man and God at the same time. And when God talks to Him, they’re both God?”

Mom smiled and closed the Bible. “Sounds to me like you have the answer to your question. Pretty cool, huh? God visited

people on earth and face-to-face in the person of Jesus.”

“So that’s why Jesus could rise from the dead. He’s God!”

Just then, the engine coughed and started to sputter. Concern flashed across Mom’s face. “Let me take the controls!” She scanned the instrument panel as the engine continued coughing.

Suddenly, the noisy engine totally stopped! The plane’s nose dipped toward the ground. The only sound was the rustling wind.

Mom snatched up the microphone. “Mayday! Mayday! This is Cessna N89303. We’ve lost all power; we’re going down!”

“What should I do?” I asked.

“Pray!”

I never prayed faster or more sincerely in my life. “Jesus, we’re in trouble. Please show us a safe place to land!”

As I finished praying, a man’s voice crackled over the radio. “We read you N89303. What is your location?”

Mom handed me the microphone. “Tell him where we are!”

I glanced down. “This is N89303. We’re crash landing in the forest between Carterville and Tipton!”

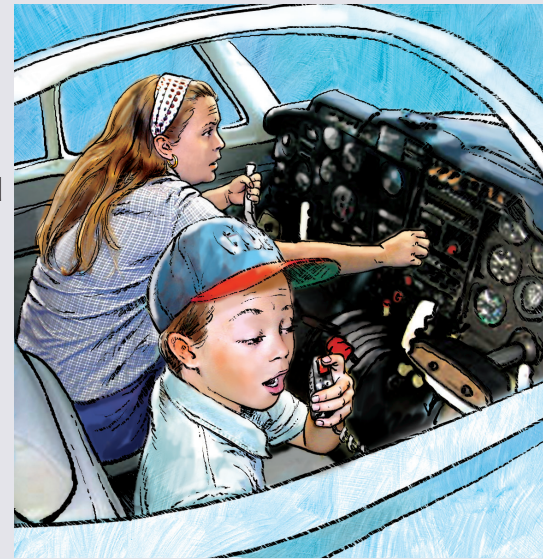
“Help us, Lord Jesus!” I prayed. I pictured our Cessna smashing into trees, splintering into a thousand pieces. Suddenly I spotted a place to land. “Mom, a road! There, in the forest!”

Within seconds, we were clipping leaves and branches on both sides of the road. The wingtips barely fit. The wheels bounced once, twice, and then we were speeding along the gravel road in a cloud of dust.

When the plane rolled to a stop, I looked at Mom, and she looked at me. Suddenly we burst into laughter with relief.

“Praise the Lord!” she said.

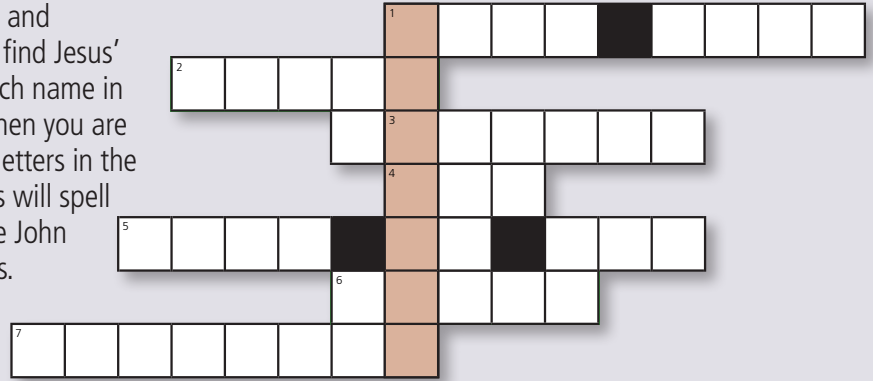
“Thank You, Jesus!” I added. “You answered our prayers!”



# John's Names for Jesus



Use the clues and references to find Jesus' names. Fit each name in the boxes. When you are finished, the letters in the colored boxes will spell the first name John used for Jesus.



1. This name demonstrates Jesus' connection to believers (John 15:1)
2. This name shows Jesus is always true (John 14:6).
3. This name means "anointed" (John 1:41).
4. This name illustrates that Jesus is the "path" to the Father (John 14:6).
5. This name shows Jesus served as God's sacrifice for sin (John 1:29).
6. This name reveals that Jesus meets needs (John 6:35).
7. This name communicates Jesus' care for His own (John 10:11).

ANSWERS: (1) True Vine, (2) Truth, (3) Messias or Messiah, (4) Way, (5) Lamb of God, (6) Bread, (7) Shepherd. THE WORD.

## Find the Differences

Find **10** differences between the groups of birds.



ANSWER:



## God Chose a Dove

God could have used any bird to symbolize the Holy Spirit. He used a dove to emphasize Jesus' purity and holiness. Find the bird with no pair.



## Measuring Growth

The Middler lesson for this week covered John's introduction of Jesus as the eternal Word and Matthew's description of Jesus' baptism. Jesus is the Word in that He reveals God the Father's character and ways. God the Father announced at Jesus' baptism that He was well pleased with Jesus. As the eternal Son of God, Jesus was qualified to die for the sins of the world. Talk with your child about this week's measurables.

### Measurables

Look for the following clues that your child understands Jesus' identity.

1. My child believes Jesus is the Word, the Son of God.
2. My child agrees that Jesus is eternal.
3. My child knows that Jesus provides the only way of salvation.

