

## 3:16 Stories of Hope

*"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him. John 3:16-17 ESV*

Max Lucado says of John 3:16, "If you know nothing of the Bible start here. If you know everything in the Bible return here." *If God is for us, who could be against us. Romans 8:31* God loves us. We don't have to live with a hard heart. Love is the reason that Jesus left heaven and came to the earth. Our goodness can't win God's love and our badness cannot chase Him away. God loves us with an unearthly love.

Do you believe in Jesus?

John 3:16 offers us the promise that if we find Jesus we will find the help we need. Jesus came to pay the price for our sins so that we can have peace with God. Jesus, who was without sin, took on our sins so that we can be free in Him. Whoever believes in Him can have eternal life. It doesn't matter who we are or what we've done. God's grace is for anyone who will believe.

Do you have peace?

Jesus tells us to trust Him. Look to Jesus and believe. Some people believe that all religions lead to God. The Bible tells us there is one way - to believe in Jesus. Christ, who never sinned, paid the price for our sins. God makes the offer. We make the choice.

What is your choice?

God filled His first garden with plants and animals. He surely will in heaven, also. We will love serving Him; never weary, never selfish, never defeated, clear mind, tireless muscles and unhindered joy. Heaven is a perfect place with our perfect God. God offers to reconnect us to His power. God wants to give us a brand new life. Christ will live in us but we need to open the door and let Him in. *God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.*

Do you confess that you are a sinner and have gone your own way? Do you accept Jesus as your savior?

## Wherever You Are

Katherine's mother and dad loved to dance. Katherine's mother died. As Katherine grew up her dad liked to tell her how it was tradition that he and her mom always danced for her mother's birthday. It became a tradition that Katherine and her dad danced for Katherine's birthday, too.

Do you have any traditions that are special to you?

When Katherine started dating Todd she began pulling away from her family. She said she had to get away from her dad for awhile because he didn't understand her. She ran away with Todd, and then was heartbroken when Todd left her for another girl. Katherine stayed with her cousin who helped her find a job as a dancer. Katherine made a lot of wrong decisions.

Have you ever made wrong decisions that you didn't want to face up to?

Katherine hated her lifestyle but felt like she could never go home because of what she had done and who she had become. Every year her father sent her a letter but she never opened them. When she did finally open the letters she found love and not condemnation. God offers us His love. He sent Jesus so that we can be saved. No matter how badly we mess up He welcomes us back because He loves us.

Do you know that God loves you?

*Dear Lord, we have messed up our lives and need You to show us the way. Wash us clean with Your grace and mercy. Fill us with Your love and goodness so that we can live for You. Show us how to share Your love with others who need Your salvation. When our last day comes, open Your arms and welcome us into heaven forever. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.*