

Was Jesus ever scared?

Before I talk about Jesus, let me tell you about a time — when I was around your age — that I was scared. I went to a pool that had a high-dive. It



KIDS
wanna know

David Zimmerman

was really tall and all the kids looked like they were having lots of fun jumping off of it. I thought it might be fun too, so I went to give it a try. When I got to the bottom of the ladder I looked up

and felt my heart beat so fast it felt like it was bouncing around in my chest. I backed off and let the other kids go. I was scared of the high dive.

Sometimes it's good to be scared. For instance, it might protect us from getting hurt. When I stood at the bottom of the high dive a smaller kid jumped in front of me, climbed up the ladder, and took a flying-leap off the diving board. He landed with a big splash and when he came up he was coughing up water. He could have been hurt very badly. My fear of the high dive was stopping me from being hurt.

In Hebrews 4:15, The Bible tells us that Jesus faced every trouble we face. To answer your question— since Jesus faced everything we do, we can be sure Jesus was scared too. That means there were times when he might have felt his heart beat like it was jumping around in his chest— just like mine did at the pool that day. Isn't it comforting to know that Jesus understands us when we tell him that we are scared?

While I was waiting at the bottom of the high dive a friend

HEY KIDS!

Do you have a question about God or the Bible?
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Look for David Zimmerman's column the second week of the month in the *Lake Wylie Pilot*.

saw me. At first I was embarrassed but he told me that it would be OK — he had gone off the high dive many times so it was safe for me to jump off too. "Don't be afraid," he said.

In the Bible, many times Jesus tells us, "Do not be afraid." One time Jesus was crossing the Sea of Galilee with his disciples (you can read it for yourself in Mark 4:35-41). While they were in the middle of the sea, a big storm came up. Thunder must have been cracking all around them. The salty waves crashed over the side of the boat, drenching them as the boat filled up with water. The wind whistled so strong the disciples thought their little boat was going to flip over. Even though things were scary, Jesus was fast asleep. When the disciples woke him up Jesus simply told the storm, "Quiet. Be still." Immediately the storm stopped. He turned to his disciples and asked them, "Why are you so scared? Don't you have any faith?"

When Jesus says, "Don't be afraid" he's not giving us a rule in the same way he said, "Obey your parents." Like my friend, Jesus tells us not to be scared because he knows everything will be okay and we can trust God.

When I was standing at the bottom of the high dive another boy came up to me, but this one wasn't so nice. He started to make fun of me because I

was scared. He started to call me names just because I wouldn't jump off the high dive. I was starting to get embarrassed because other kids were starting to look at me and laugh. Eventually I couldn't take any more and I called him a name back.

While there's nothing wrong with being scared, fear isn't always a good thing. Sometimes fear can lead us into sin. We might disobey our parents because we are afraid we will miss out on some fun. If we are afraid we might not get something we want, we might steal it. When this other kid started making fun of me, I was scared and I fought back. It wasn't my fear of the high dive that made me do this — I was scared that everyone would think I was a "chicken." You might say that this mean kid got what he deserved because he did it first. But just because someone else does something to me doesn't mean its right to do it to them. Because I was scared of what people might think of me I

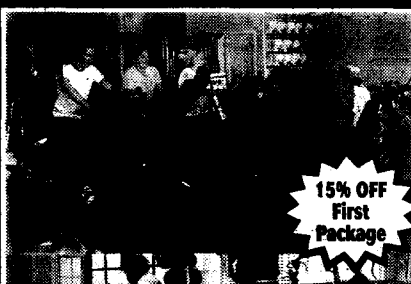
sinned by calling this boy a bad name too.

Remember Hebrews 4:15, which I mentioned earlier? It tells us that even though Jesus faced every temptation we face, he did it without sinning. Because Jesus did not sin when he was scared, we can be sure he can forgive us when we sin because we're scared. You see, if Jesus ever sinned he would have to pay the penalty for his own sins when he died. Since he did not sin, he can pay the penalty for our sins instead — including the sins we commit when we are afraid. This was something he was glad to do, because he loves us so much.

Isn't that good news? Not only did God send his one and only Son, Jesus, to experience all the same temptations, trials and even fears we have to face, but also to pay the penalty we deserve for our sins — even the sins we commit because we are scared. Since this is true, we can believe Jesus when he tells us we don't have to be scared of anything (just like it says in Romans 8:31-39).

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