

## GOD'S WORD

**"Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" (2 Corinthians 5:17, NLT).\***

## Throwing Stones

**W**hen I was in elementary school, my friends nicknamed me Shorty. But whenever somebody called me that, I threw stones at them. I was about 11 years old when the following incident happened. Some girls called me Shorty when I was walking home from school one day. I found a stone and threw it at them. It hit one of the girls above her right eye, and when I saw that, I quickly took off. Arriving home, I zoomed past my surprised parents and went straight to my room and thought about what might happen to me.

Suddenly I heard crying coming from outside. I looked through the window and I saw the girl and her parents. She looked as if somebody had poured blood on her. After talking with my parents, the girl and her parents left. My visibly angry father immediately came to my room and asked me to follow him. We walked for a long way into the woods and sat down under a tree. I sat far away from his arms' reach.

My father looked at me and asked why I had thrown stones at the girls. "Because they called me Shorty," I replied angrily.

"And how much have you grown after stoning them?" he asked.

I had no answer.

"Throwing stones at your friends will not

make you any taller," my father said. "You have to make a decision. Either you are going to live the rest of your life throwing stones at people, or you are going to accept yourself the way you are, because you will not grow much taller than this. But the truth is you just cannot go through life throwing stones at people."

I was silent. "Look at it this way," my dad said. "God is building a house, and He knows exactly where this short brick (pointing to me) will fit into the plans. In John 9:1-3 there is a story of a blind man. When people asked Jesus who had sinned, Jesus answered that neither the parents nor the blind man sinned but that the man was blind so that the work of God might be displayed in his life.

"God allows certain things to happen to us for His glory," he added. "Remember that when God created Adam and Eve, He made them in His image. You are also made in God's image. And know this: God does not make junk."

After Dad finished speaking, we prayed together and walked home.

That discussion with my father changed me completely. I accepted myself just the way I was. Though I am short, I know I am made in the image of God. Through my father, God re-created me, and I stopped throwing stones at people.

## ACTIVITY

Do the exercise below to find out something about Creation.

- 1 Choose any even number between 1 and 10 and write it on the line provided. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Add the next higher even number to it. Write the total on the line provided. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Add 8 to your total in number 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Divide your total in number 3 by 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Subtract the original number from your total in number 4. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 Add 2 to your number in number 5. \_\_\_\_\_

If you read Genesis 1:31 and Genesis 2:1-3, you will find that the answer you have in number 6 is the number of days it took to create the world, including the Sabbath rest. Out of a shapeless, dark, and void earth, God made a beautiful world. He can do the same thing for you. He is able to forgive all your wrongs and make you a new creation, a loving and lovable person.

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