The Adventures of Tedward

My Best Friend

Featuring:

Teddy

the Golden Retriever

Eli, Liam, Grandpa DG & Grandma Sasa



Series:
The Adventures
of Tedward
Book 1

Pastor Devin

Preface

Welcome to Teddy's world! This book is designed to be read together as a family — like one chapter each night before bed. You'll meet Teddy, the most wonderful golden retriever you could ever imagine, along with his best friends Eli and Liam, and their grandparents DG ("Deej" — that's what the boys call their Grandpa, Pastor Devin) and Sasa (Grandma).

Through Teddy's adventures on the farm, your family will discover the most important truths in the whole world: that God loves you deeply, made you on purpose, and invites you into a real, personal friendship with Jesus. This isn't just a story about being "good." It's about being loved, forgiven, and adopted into God's family forever.

As I developed this work, I worried for a moment about how it discusses the fact that Jesus had to die for our sins. But then I remembered by four or five years old, kids today have already seen death on TV, if not simply poor animals on the side of the road. So, discussing a subject so integral to the message of Christ seems necessary and appropriate. If they don't hear it from you, they will hear it somewhere else without a proper explanation.

So, grab a cozy blanket, snuggle up, and let's meet Teddy and his Best Friend!

Keep The Son in Your Eyes,



Pastor Devin



Dedication

While this book is dedicated to and for the glory of Jesus Christ, I also wish to dedicate it to my grandsons, Eli and Liam, to my little friends, Avery and Brinley, and to Teddy. It was only by Christ's grace and blessing that I was able to write this book. Jesus used your presence in my life to inspire me to write it. You are, all five of you, among the greatest blessings in my life! As you grow, I pray that we will share many, many years of His love between us. So, thank You, Jesus, for putting these wonderful little people, and Teddy, in my life!

Keep The Son in Your Eyes,



Don’t skip the scripture.

Even if the words seem too big for your kids, don’t skip reading the Scripture out loud. Make it a big deal! Tell them, “Here are our verses from the Bible for today!” Trust me on this one! I’m an old grandpa now (my knees remind me every morning), and I still often quote Scripture from the King James Version. Why? Because that’s what I heard when I was little. I didn’t understand every “thee” and “thou” back then, but those words stuck. Even today, when life gets hard, verses like “*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want*” (Psalm 23:1, KJV) come right back to me, word for word, just when I need them.

So, here’s the secret: your child doesn’t have to understand every word for God’s Word to do its work. James paints a beautiful picture of this. He says, “*Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains*” (James 5:7, NIV84). Think about that farmer for a minute. He drops those little seeds into the dirt, covers them up, and then…nothing. Day after day, he looks out at a field of plain old dirt. (I’d be tempted to dig one up just to check on it!) But he doesn’t panic, and he doesn’t quit. He trusts that something is happening under the ground, even when he can’t see it. That’s exactly what happens when you read the Bible out loud to your kids. You’re planting seeds. James even calls it “*the word planted in you, which can save you*” (James 1:21, NIV84). You may not see anything sprout for years, but God is faithfully watering those seeds, and in His perfect timing, they will grow.

And here’s the best part. Those verses will become a lifetime of blessings for your child. When they’re scared, confused, or tempted, the Holy Spirit will bring those words back to mind, helping them stay on the Father’s path. As the psalmist said, “*Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee*” (Psalm 119:11, KJV). So, read it out loud, read it often, and don’t worry about the big words. God will take care of the rest!

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Chapter 1: You Are Loved!

Psalm 139:13–14 *(NIV84)*
13 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. 14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

1 John 4:19 *(NIV84)*
19 We love because he first loved us.

It was a warm summer evening on DG and Sasa's farm, and Eli and Liam were sitting on the back patio watching the fireflies blink like tiny stars in the grass. Teddy, their favorite golden retriever in the whole world, was lying at their feet with his chin resting on Liam's shoe.

"DG," Eli asked, looking up at his grandfather, "why does Teddy love us so much? We didn't do anything to earn it. He just... loves us."

DG smiled and scratched Teddy behind the ears. Teddy's tail thumped against the patio stones. "You're right, Eli. You didn't earn Teddy's love. He loves you because that's who he is. It's in his nature to love you. You know what? That's exactly how God loves you too."

Liam's eyes went wide. "God loves us like Teddy loves us?"

"Even more than that," Sasa said, stepping out onto the patio with a tray of cookies. "God doesn't just love you — He made you! Before you were even born, God knew you. He designed every part of you on purpose. You're not an accident, boys. You're God's idea!"

DG opened the big Bible on his lap. "Listen to what the Bible says. Psalm 139 says, '*For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made.*' That means God carefully put you together, piece by piece, like a master artist painting a masterpiece. You are His masterpiece."

"Wow," whispered Eli. "So, God really thought about me before I was even here?"

"Absolutely," DG said. "Here's the really amazing part: God didn't just make you and then walk away. He loves you deeply. Not because of anything you did, but because of who He is. The Bible says, '*We love because He first loved us.*' God loved you first, boys. Before you could do anything to earn it."

Teddy rolled over onto his back, paws in the air, asking for belly rubs. Liam giggled and rubbed Teddy's fluffy belly. "I love Teddy so much!"



"And Teddy knows that," Sasa said with a smile. "But imagine this — God loves you even more than you love Teddy, and even more than Teddy loves you. God's love is perfect, and it never runs out. It never gets tired. It never says, 'I'm done with you.' His love is forever."

DG looked at both boys seriously. "I want you to know something really important. No matter what you do — no matter what mistakes you make, no matter how many times you mess up — God will always love you. His love isn't based on your performance or what you do. It's based on who He is. And He is love."

Eli looked down at his hands. "But what if I do something really bad?"

"Even then," DG said gently. "God's love doesn't change. That doesn't mean there aren't consequences for bad choices — there are, and we'll talk about that another night. But God's love for you? That never changes. You are valuable to Him, not because of what you do, but because you are His. He made you!"

"Let me explain something really important," DG said. "The reason God made you, His whole purpose for creating you, is to love you! That's why He made you. He just wants you to choose to love Him back. Think about it... If you made people, wouldn't you want them to love you?"

Liam hugged Teddy tight. "I'm glad God made me. And, I'm really glad God made Teddy!"

"Me too," said Eli.

Sasa handed each boy a cookie. "So are we, boys. So is God. He is so proud of you, and He loves you more than you could ever imagine."

Teddy barked happily, as if agreeing with every word. As the fireflies blinked and the stars began to appear, Eli and Liam felt something warm and true settle deep in their hearts: they were loved. Deeply, completely, and forever.



Think About It:

1. How does it feel to know that God made you on purpose?
2. Can you think of a time when you felt really loved? That's a tiny taste of how much God loves you!

Prayer:

Thank You, Jesus, for making me on purpose. Thank You for loving me even before I was born. Help me to remember that I am Your masterpiece, and that You will never stop loving me. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Teddy's Tail-Waggers

Q: Why would Teddy have loved Moses?

A: Because Moses always carried the biggest stick around!



Chapter 2: The Problem We All Have

Romans 3:23 *(NIV84)*
[23] for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Isaiah 59:2 *(NIV84)*
[2] But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.

The next evening, Eli and Liam were helping DG fix the gate to the chicken coop. Teddy was sitting nearby, watching carefully. Suddenly, Hubble — the young puppy who was still learning — came bounding around the corner and jumped right on top of Teddy's favorite toy, breaking it into pieces.

"Hubble!" Liam shouted. "That was Teddy's toy!"

Hubble looked up, confused. He didn't mean to break it — he just wanted to play. But the toy was ruined.

DG put down his hammer and knelt beside Hubble. "It's okay, Hubble," he said gently. "You didn't mean to break it. But the toy is still broken, isn't it?"

Hubble's ears drooped. Teddy sniffed the broken pieces but didn't get angry.

"Boys," DG said, turning to Eli and Liam, "this is a really important lesson. We all make mistakes. We all do things that hurt others — even when we don't mean to. The Bible has a word for that: sin."

"Sin?" asked Eli. "What's that?"

Sasa came ove, "Sin is when we choose to go our own way instead of God's way. It's like when you know you're supposed to share your toy, but you don't. Or when you know you're supposed to tell the truth, but you tell a lie. Sin is choosing what we want over what God wants."

"And here's the thing," DG said. "Everyone sins. The Bible says, '*All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*' That means me, Sasa, your mom and dad, you boys — everyone. We all make mistakes. We all have times when we don't do what's right."

Liam frowned. "But I don't want to sin!"

"I know," DG said kindly. "But because we're human, we all do. Even when we try really hard to be good, we still mess up. That's the problem we all have."