

A Father's Love

by Mike DeVries

The day was October 17th. As my wife and I quietly slithered out of our room, we we're praying that we wouldn't make a noise. Across the hallway and into the next room we crept. There he was, having one of the most significant days of his little life and never even knowing it. It was our son Joshua's first birthday. As we sang "Happy Birthday" to him, he looked at us as if we had lost our minds. It was his day, and we were going to go to his favorite place on earth... Disneyland!!! It was time for Joshua to experience his first ride as Disneyland. Joshua is a veteran of the park. He's seen everything and been almost everywhere in the park, but on a ride? Not until today.

As my wife and I entered the park with Joshua, we headed straight for the Castle. Joshua's first ride? The Dumbo ride. As I climbed into the airborne elephant, I strapped Joshua and I in. In moments, we were in the air... going up... going down! I had a great time... now Joshua was another story. Here's my son, with a look of sheer panic on his face and the few strands of hair that he has blowing in the wind!

That night as we lay Joshua in bed, still clutching his Mickey Mouse balloon, my wife and I prayed for Joshua. We prayed that God would look over his little life and guide him. We prayed that God would reveal to Joshua his love for him... that he would come to know Christ. We prayed that Joshua would know that Mom and Dad love him with all their hearts.

As we quietly crept out of his room, I went downstairs and sat in our living room. I pulled out my journal and began to write. I wrote Joshua a letter, from his Daddy's heart. I told him how much I love him. I told him what he means to me, how my life will never be the same since God gave him to us as a gift. I told him of my prayers for him and what type of Dad I wanted to be for him. I wrote and I cried. I wrote and I poured my heart out to my son whom I love with all my heart. My prayer is that someday my son will open the pages on my journal and see into his father's heart.

You know, in it's purest form that's what the Bible is. God's love letter to the world, letting us know how much He loves us. It's a glimpse into the Father's heart... and the kids we work with need to see it... need to be exposed to it... need to be changed and moved by it. The students that we work with need to hear the heart of their Heavenly Father as He pours out His love for them within the pages of His Word. I believe that's one of the callings of the youth worker... to bring kids into contact with the living Word of God. It's a message from the Father's heart to ours. As you lead your students through the heart of the New Testament... listen carefully. The heartbeat you hear is the heartbeat of your Father.