FOR THE TOUGH SEASONS OF LIFF

ife is hard, there's no question about it. But there is someone you can turn to when you need a friend. There is someone who will be there for you in the bad times as well as the good.

This is the one who the Bible describes as "a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief" (Isaiah 53:3)—someone who endured the greatest of all suffering and who understands your worst emotional and physical pain. He is everything that you could ever want in a friend, a confidant, a guide, a teacher, and a mentor. He is Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

The Bible says that "God is love" (1 John 4:8), and His love is unending, it's without limits. It's higher than the highest mountain, deeper than the deepest sea. It's everywhere, and it's always; it's awesome and all-encompassing! But it's far too great for us to fully comprehend.

Because God wanted us to experience this monumental love, He sent His Son, Jesus, to earth to live like us and experience the things we go through. However, unlike us, Jesus was both God and man.

His mission on earth was finished when He died an excruciating death on the cross, rose from the dead, and returned to His Father in heaven. He was willing to make the supreme sacrifice of dying for us to take our sins upon Himself and redeem us. He did this so that we could be forgiven and know how great a love He and the Father have for us.

"For God so loved the world (you and me) that He gave His only Son (Jesus), that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Jesus knows you personally. He knows your name. He knows all your problems and heartaches, and He wants to help you. If you ask Him, He will walk with you through all the difficulties, challenges, problems, losses, and tragedies of this life. No matter what your circumstances, you can experience the comfort and hope He gives.

If you open your heart to Him and make Him an important part of your life, He will help you navigate this life. No matter how difficult things are, you can know that He is right there to help you. God doesn't always take the bad things away, but He can help you through each difficulty you face.

After you've walked with Him through this life, you will be able to keep walking with Him into the next life in heaven! You will enter the most beautiful place, where you will live forever in joy and peace. Love and justice will reign, and you will never experience suffering, injustice, or poverty again.

May you know God's all-encompassing love and understand how important you are to Him. May you have faith that He is always beside you and experience His joy. You can learn more about God, His love for humanity, and His plan for your life in the Bible.

Jesus wants to enter into a personal relationship with you and become a very real part of your life both here and now and forever in eternity. He stands at your heart's door, waiting for you to open the door and invite Him into your life. (See Revelation 3:20.)

You can do this by sincerely praying this prayer:

Jesus, please forgive me for all my sins. I believe that You died for me. I open the door to my heart, and I invite You into my life. Please fill me with Your love and Holy Spirit, help me get to know You, and guide me in the way of truth. Amen.

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