



Gospel Story: Jesus in the Desert

One day Jesus heard God say, “You are my own dear child. You are my beloved.” Jesus knew that God was giving him everything he needed to love and care for God’s people. Jesus knew what God wanted next. Jesus walked to the desert, to be alone with God.

The desert was a place that all God’s people knew and all God’s people loved. Long ago, God had spoken to their mothers and fathers in the desert. Long ago God had helped his people cross the big, dangerous desert. There was no water—but God gave them water to drink. There was no food—but God gave them food to eat.

In the desert Jesus prayed. “I am your child, God. I will do whatever you want.”

But Jesus heard another voice in the desert. Just like the snake in God’s garden long ago, a voice said to him, “Do whatever you want! God loves you!”

“No,” said Jesus. “God loves me. So I want to do what God wants.” The voice tried again and again. But each time, Jesus said, “No.”

