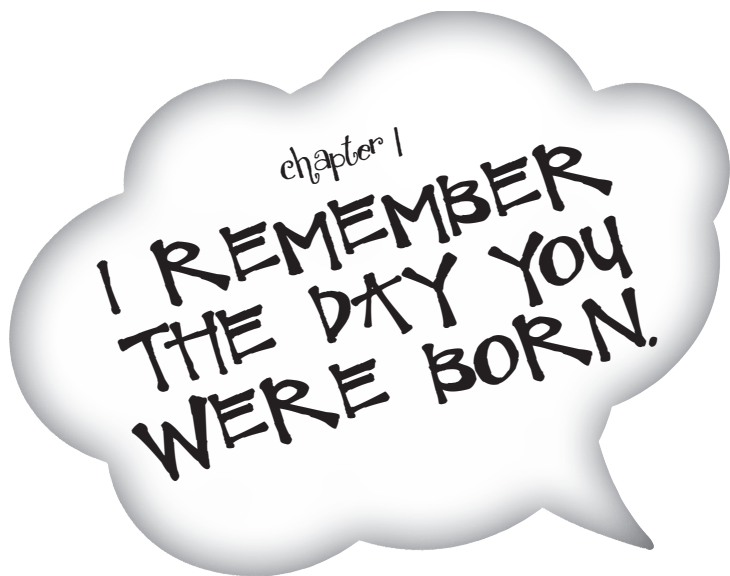


Contents

Acknowledgments	7
Introduction.....	11
1. “I remember the day you were born.”	25
2. “Do you know where you’re going?”	30
3. “Slow down!”	35
4. “It’s time to get up!”	41
5. “Do what you know.”	47
6. “That is not how we treat our brothers and sisters.”	53
7. “Look at me.”	59
8. “You gave your word.”	65
9. “How many times do I have to tell you?”	71
10. “Come here!”	76
11. “I’m not talking to <i>them</i> . I’m talking to you.”	81
12. “We don’t act like that.”	87
13. “I love you.”	93
14. “Where is your brother?”	98
15. “Hold my hand.”	103
16. “Be careful.”	109
17. “You will always be my child.”	114
18. “God has great plans for you.”	118
19. “Please stop that.”	124
20. “Follow the directions.”	129
21. “Now is not the time.”	134
22. “Go outside.”	139
23. “Share.”	145
24. “Let’s go for a walk.”	149
25. “Turn down the music!”	155
26. “Life isn’t fair.”	160
27. “I know how you feel.”	165
28. “Do you know what time it is?”	170
29. “It’s time to rest.”	175
30. “Answer me when I call you.”	181
31. “It doesn’t matter what everyone else is doing.”	186
32. “What are you supposed to be doing?”	190

33. "You make me smile."	196
34. "No."	201
35. "This is going to hurt me more than it's going to hurt you."	206
36. "Are you ready for inspection?"	211
37. "You need to own your part."	215
38. "Be still."	220
39. "Where does it hurt?"	224
40. "I'm the parent, that's why."	227
41. "Stop whining!"	233
42. "That's not your job."	237
43. "[Your name here]!"	242
44. "Use your time wisely."	246
45. "Be careful who your friends are."	251
46. "The house is open. Everyone is welcome!"	255
47. "I love to hear you sing!"	261
48. "Don't lie to me."	266
49. "Pay attention."	272
50. "Dude!"	277
51. "Call home."	281
52. "Let me know when you get some self-control."	286
53. "It's not about you."	291
54. "Be quiet!"	297
55. "Together we can do it."	302
56. "Please just trust me and obey."	307
57. "Listen to me."	312
58. "You can call anytime."	317
59. "Wash up before dinner."	322
60. "Be grateful. You've got it made."	327
61. "It's your choice."	333
62. "Don't panic."	338
63. "Have you prayed about it?"	343
64. "Take out the trash."	350
65. "Get a job."	355
66. "Are you ready yet?"	361
67. "Let's go forward."	366
68. "Get busy."	372
Becoming a Child of God: Claiming Your Inheritance	377
About the Author	381



I have seven great stories about the births of my kids. Charles came first, a forced labor. I remember thinking I'd never have another baby. I discovered firsthand that day all the things no one tells you about childbirth, and it wasn't pretty!

Two years later, Anderson arrived, and he was quite larger than his older brother. They nearly had to remove him by C-section, but the mere mention of this option motivated me to almost shoot him across the room.

HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU?

The day our first daughter appeared, it was snowing in Charlotte, North Carolina. Savannah Anne smiled upon arrival.

Molly was actually born on her due date, and she came really fast—with only three pushes.

For number five, labor was again induced. Yet Elizabeth has been a gentle spirit from the beginning.

I almost walked a trench around the nurses' station, trying to get Joseph to debut, but to little avail. He took his time and arrived five hours later. I was exhausted!

Little Benjamin's big day was delightfully uneventful and peaceful after a very busy nine months of pregnancy.

These are probably my kids' favorite stories to hear. They love to hear how I counted their fingers and toes, how I kissed them, and how they cried. They also love to look at their baby pictures, and they ask a lot of questions. "Did I have hair?" "When did I smile?" "Who did I look like?"

I love to tell these stories, just as I love to hear my mother tell about my arrival—including how her water broke, causing the doctor to fall in the hall! There's

I REMEMBER THE DAY YOU WERE BORN.

something about hearing your birth recounted that makes you feel special.

God remembers your grand entrance, too. He's known you from the dawn of creation. He chose the time of your birth, knowing the circumstances full well. He even knew the number of hairs on your head. And just like a new father who holds his child for the first time, He had plans for you.

He wants you to know that He knows. Whether the situation surrounding your birth was positive or negative, He cares. His plan is to work in and through you either way.

“I remember the day you were born,” He says.

I remember another special day, a cool spring morning when my five-year-old Anderson and I were sitting in our car outside the place where the kids took music lessons. Suddenly Anderson announced, “Mom, I want to have Jesus in my heart.”

“Come here, Anderson,” I said. He got out of his car seat and made his way into my lap. We were cramped but cozy. “What do you mean?” I asked.

HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU?

“I want to be a Christian,” he said. “They were talking about it at church. They said that Jesus wants to be my best friend.”

“That’s right, Anderson, He does,” I said. And as he sat in my lap, we prayed.

I’ll always remember that day, when Anderson was born. Again.

If you’ve accepted Christ as your personal Savior, your heavenly Father remembers that day, too. He recalls the moment you were born again into a new life, the moment you chose Him.

He remembers the commitment you made to follow and trust Him, how childlike your faith was, how innocent you were about the challenges you would face. He remembers everything about that special day.

It’s great that He remembers, but it’s important that we remember, too. We need to think back on the day we were reborn into His family. We need to recall where we came from and what He did for us when He cleaned us up. This will help to keep us humble, if we let it.

It’s important to admit how much we needed Him then

I REMEMBER THE DAY YOU WERE BORN.

and how much we need Him now. We need to remember the promises we made when we came into the family, too. Did we promise to follow Him no matter where, no matter what? Did we promise to trust when we're all alone in the dark?

"I remember the day you were born," He says.

And He asks, "Do you?"



a moment of
introspection

- If you're a parent, what are the stories of your children's birthdays?
- What are your—and their—favorite parts of these stories?
- Have you been "born again"? If so, what were the circumstances? If not, please see the "Becoming a Child of God" section at the end of this book for information on taking this important step of faith.