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JEN'S STORY



On the surface, my life was pretty good. At age fifteen, I worked hard to be a varsity cheerleader and varsity soccer player. I studied long hours to make the honor roll, sang in my high school choir, and had a boyfriend on the football team and a lot of really nice friends. Most importantly, I loved God with all of my heart. Every morning I set my alarm early so I could sit in my lime-green chair and read my Bible and pray. No doubt, God had given me just about everything a girl could want. There was only one thing missing: *boldness*. I passionately

wanted to make a difference, to change the world, to tell others about how they could have a love relationship with Jesus, but I never knew quite how to get the words out. If only people could see what was really going on inside my head and heart. There was so much I wanted to say and share with people, but I was shy.

All of that changed in one second, the moment a drunk driver hit our car. My family and I were driving home one night in our minivan from my choir concert, when

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a full-size truck ran us over going eighty miles per hour with no headlights and no warning. I was in a coma for five weeks. When I woke up, everything was different. Because of a serious brain injury, I would never be able to cheer again



or play soccer. I'd never be able to drive a car. I had to relearn everything: walking, talking, eating. Most of my friends changed. My life changed. Even my personality was different.



The only thing that didn't change was my love relationship with Jesus and my desire to tell people about Him. Before the accident, I had written a prayer to God in my private journal I kept under my bed. Here's what I asked:

Wow! It's crazy how time flies and years go by. Lord, this year I don't want to blend in because I know I was born to stand out. To stand alone? Maybe. If that is what it takes. This life I now live is not mine but Yours. Lord, pretty much I'm just begging You to take this year and my life and allow Your glory to shine. Take it and use it to its fullest potential. Father, I know You use the weak and incapable for Your glory, so that means You can use me just as I am. . . . Daddy, I know that together we can change the world.



Only God fully knew the desires and longing of my heart. I never dreamed He'd answer this prayer in such a dramatic way! My brain injury caused a lot of things

to get “rewired” inside my head. Instead of being timid and shy, I said everything I thought or felt out loud. If I thought your outfit didn’t match, I’d tell you right to your face. I would have never done that before! I’d also tell you how much Jesus loved you and wanted to have a personal relationship with you, without holding back anything. I was completely uninhibited, which made for some funny moments at times, but it answered the prayer in my journal! It was as if God had opened the doors of my heart so others could see everything going on inside.

Now, more than ten years later, God has used my injury, my brokenness, and my new personality to give me a voice to girls all over the world. I would have never had the ability to do that without first having the foundation of learning how to talk to God and, second, surrendering my life to His plan. My hope and prayer is that God will use this book to help you learn how to talk to Him, how to pour out the desires of your heart to Him in a two-way conversation, *where you know He hears you and talks back!* My other hope is that you will draw closer to Him and one step closer to discovering the amazing adventure He has planned for



your life. He has something incredible planned that only you can do. You are special and one-of-a-kind! There is no one quite like you. I'm praying God will open the doors to your heart.

My **HOPE** for you . . .

I know at your age you sometimes get labeled an “emotional roller coaster.” You’ve probably heard people talk about how unstable your feelings are, and they probably weren’t talking about them in a positive way. Maybe it almost made you feel like something was wrong with you or like you didn’t have the freedom to be yourself. The surge of feelings you are experiencing right now are part of God’s perfect design for you to get to know Him better. What if this age you are at right now isn’t just an emotional roller coaster? What if it is the perfect age for you to learn to worship God with all your heart and soul because you are bubbling over with feelings? What if God planned this special time as you blossom into



adulthood to capture your whole heart because your heart is so full? I want you to know that I love your age. God loves your stage. He created and designed it for you to experience *more* of Him.

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In a lot of ways, God “froze” me at fifteen. Because of my injury, I will always “feel” like a teenager in some ways. I also now say everything I feel out loud! This has given me a unique glimpse into the heart and needs of every teenage girl. I’ll never forget one day hearing my mom say, “Oh my goodness, Jen, you constantly say out loud what every teenage girl is feeling but doesn’t know how to put into words. We need to write a book to help girls understand what they are feeling.”

And so . . . we did!

My mom would ask me about a feeling, and I would explain how we girls feel. Then we would take these feelings to the truth of God’s Word. My mom would

read me a Scripture, and I would pray the Scripture out loud back to God. All of this had to be recorded on my mom's iPhone because, girlfriend, I cannot write very fast anymore, and I can't always remember what I just said! My short-term memory is still a struggle, but God helps me do the impossible. Remember, I told you my brain injury changed a lot of things. You have to know it is a miracle that I could write a book. I can barely find my way to the bathroom sometimes.

God is healing me more and more every day. When I first woke up from the coma, I did not even recognize my family. I couldn't write my name, much less a book! I had lost a lot, but God miraculously preserved a lot too—including every praise song I'd ever learned. The



JEN'S STORY

last thing I did before my accident was sing a song—a song that would be very special to me in the months ahead. It was all about the names of God and Him being my Best Friend! When you start waking up from a coma, you are very confused about who you are and where you are and how to do anything. That song would calm me down and help me feel the peace and presence of God. My family would play it over and over in my hospital room to help me get through some very difficult days.



Right now you probably have some difficult days too. You may not have a brain injury, but you have a lot of changes to navigate. A lot is changing about your body, your feelings, your friends, and your life. I know it can be very overwhelming at times. Since it was a song that really helped me get through my years of drastic changes, I chose some songs to share with you. Did you know that God wrote you a bunch of songs? The whole book of Psalms is really just a collection of songs about all kinds of feelings. Each day, we'll look at a feeling and compare it to one of God's songs that will remind you

how much He loves you and how beautiful and perfect you are in His eyes.

A few months ago I was standing in my bedroom, looking at myself in the mirror that hangs over my antique dresser. I just happened to be counting my scars. I was curious to find out how many I had left from my accident. I was feeling a little bothered by them. But the moment I figured out the number, it was like God whispering to my heart:

Jen, I don't look at you and think, oh, she's the girl with all the scars. No. When I look at you, I see that you are worth it.

You are priceless!

You are beautiful.

You are mine.



God feels the same way about you. When He looks at you, He doesn't see your brokenness. He sees your potential and what you will become with His strength. Your value can't be measured because you are *priceless*.

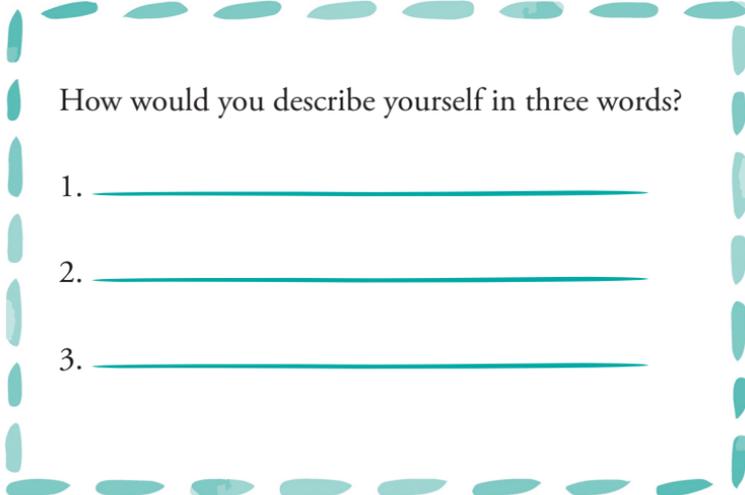
Let's start this adventure together!



Day 1

When I feel like I'm
NOT ENOUGH . . .
I'm *priceless*

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?



How would you describe yourself in three words?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

How would your friends or family describe you?
(Text somebody who knows you and ask him or her to give you three words right now!)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

How do you think God would describe you in three words?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

WHO ARE YOU REALLY?

- You are not who you think you are.
- You are not who others think you are.
- You are so much more than you may have ever imagined.

Let me explain.

God thinks you are valuable, but He also thinks you have fallen short of His high standards for heaven. Don't worry; everyone falls short of the perfect holiness of heaven (Rom. 3:23). But because God loves you so incredibly, crazy much, He made a way for you to become good enough for heaven. He sent His Son, Jesus, to trade places with you. He did all the work. You only have to receive His free gift of salvation by grace through faith (Eph. 2:8–9). That means believing what Jesus did on the cross to pay for your sins was enough to count for you. It's that simple.

Once you accept God's gift of salvation, you become one with Christ. If you are one with Christ, everything that is true about Christ is true about you. Second Corinthians 5:21 says, "God made him [Christ] who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (NIV). When you become a follower of Christ, you don't just get forgiveness for your

Priceless

sins, you get to trade everything you are for everything He is. That means you don't just get to go to heaven someday, you get a whole new identity here on earth!

When God sees you, all He sees is the sufficiency (that's a fancy word for good-enough-ness) of His Son. Your inadequacies (or not-enough-ness) are hidden and covered by Jesus. Everything that is good and perfect about Jesus is *who you are now!*

Psalm 36:7 says, "How *priceless* is your unfailing love, O God! People take refuge in the shadow of your wings" (NIV). This verse means two very important things. Let's break it down.

First, because God's love is priceless, you are priceless! (Remember, whatever is true about Him is credited to you too.)

Second, everything that is Not-Enough about you is covered by God's Enough-ness. Your inadequacies are literally hidden behind the shadow of His greatness.

Have you ever noticed what happens to your shadow when a giant cloud gets between you and the sun? The shadow of the cloud swallows up your shadow. That's exactly what this verse means. The shadow of God's Son swallows up all of your imperfections. God only sees the perfection of His Son when He sees you.

I'M *priceless*

So, the correct answer to “Who Are You Really?” is

**I am everything God knows and feels about
His Son, Jesus. I'm *priceless*!**

Chances are, whenever we are feeling like we aren't enough, we have forgotten *who we are* and *whose we are*. My hope and prayer is that God will use all the fun and crazy feelings you experience during this time of your life to remind you *who you really are* in Christ!

Together, we'll remind ourselves of who we are in Christ by fully embracing our feelings and taking them to the feet of Jesus. Every day, we'll read from the famous song-book of feelings (Psalms) and pray through what we are feeling compared to the truth of what God's Word says.

You will be tempted over the next few years to compare yourself to a lot of other things besides God's Word. You might compare yourself to friends, older siblings, the “popular” crowd, or the carefully chosen and often Photo-shopped pictures you see on social media. There is one thing you need to know: comparing yourself to anything other than the truth of God's Word is risky business. Comparison is the thief of joy. I can almost guarantee you that you will constantly struggle with feeling like you are not enough if you are sizing yourself up to anyone or anything else but the truth of *who you really are* in Christ.

Join me in building a love relationship with your Heavenly Daddy, who adores you and sent His Son to make up for everything you don't think is good enough about yourself. It's as simple as reading a few verses from His Word, praying it back to Him, and then giving Him a chance to supernaturally take over your mind, heart, and soul.

Let's give it a try together.

YOUR LOVE, LORD, REACHES TO THE HEAVENS,

YOUR FAITHFULNESS TO THE SKIES.

YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS IS LIKE THE HIGHEST MOUNTAINS,

YOUR JUSTICE LIKE THE GREAT DEEP.

YOU, LORD, PRESERVE BOTH PEOPLE AND ANIMALS.

Dear Faithful Father,

It's hard to understand how Your love for me could be limitless. It's as high as the heavens! Your righteousness will never run out. It's enough to cover all my imperfections. I don't have to worry about not being enough, because You are always enough for me. When I think of how big and amazing You are, I am overwhelmed.

I'M *priceless*

You even take care of the animals, which means You will surely take care of me!

*HOW PRICELESS IS YOUR UNFAILING LOVE, O GOD!
PEOPLE TAKE REFUGE IN THE SHADOW OF YOUR WINGS.*

Dear Jesus,

Your love is priceless! Thank You for transferring Your priceless value to me. I love who I am in Your eyes and who I get to be because of You. Thank You for covering all of my imperfections in Your big shadow of protection. It's a relief to hide behind You.

*THEY FEAST ON THE ABUNDANCE OF YOUR HOUSE;
YOU GIVE THEM DRINK FROM YOUR RIVER OF DELIGHTS.
FOR WITH YOU IS THE FOUNTAIN OF LIFE;
IN YOUR LIGHT WE SEE LIGHT.*

Dear Holy Spirit,

Remind me who I am in Christ. Shine light on the truth of what God thinks about me. Fill me with abundance when I feel like

I'm not enough. My heart is running over.
I come to You for a drink, and You are a
river! You never stop flowing and filling my
soul with delight.

If you have never traded your not-enough-ness for God's
enough-ness by accepting His gift of salvation, pray this
simple prayer asking Jesus to cover you with His love:

Jesus,

I don't think I am covered by You, and I
would like to be Yours. I know I fall short
of the perfection of heaven. I have sinned,
and I need You to forgive me. I believe You
died for me on the cross to pay for my
sins. May I please trade my sin for every-
thing that is right about You? Come into
my life, and give me a new identity in You.
Thank You with all my heart!