



Chapter 1

NOT ALONE

Haley's birthday was just a week away and her mom was busy planning her party. Haley was going to be 5 years old and she was very excited.

Haley knew that after she turned 5 she would be able to go to kindergarten and she couldn't wait to begin school!



Her mom asked her to give her a list of the friends she would like to invite to her party. Haley thought of all of the children she knew and she asked her mom if she could invite them all. After writing them down, her mom counted everyone on the list. Haley had given her mom the names of 17 of her friends and her mom agreed that she could invite them all.

Haley's mom helped Haley write the invitations. She drew hearts and butterflies on each of them and signed them herself. Then she went for a ride with her mom as they delivered them to all of her friends.

But every time Haley delivered her birthday invitation to a friend, they all told her they could not go to her party because they had other plans that day.

Haley was very sad because she had given her mom the name of every friend she could think of and they had delivered the invitations to everyone on the list, but not one of her friends said they could go to Haley's birthday party.

A few days had passed and it was time for Haley's birthday party.

Haley's dad had taken her to the park that morning for a little fun in the sun. When they got home, Haley walked in the house and was surprised to see all the party

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decorations. As she looked around the room, she saw balloons that looked like they were dancing in mid air as they were tied to chairs, and tables, and plant stands.



There were streamers stretching from one doorway to the next and across the walls. A big banner hung above the dining room table that said, "HAPPY BIRTHDAY HALEY!". And a cake! A big chocolate birthday cake was placed in the middle of the table with five candles on top that were already lit and a present wrapped in pretty pink paper was sitting right next to it.

As her mom and dad began to sing, a tear rolled down Haley's cheek.

"Not ONE of my friends came to my birthday party! How am I supposed to have fun on birthday when I'm all alone?"

And all of a sudden, she heard a very loud, "HAPPY BIRTHDAY HALEY!"

Every one of the friends she had invited jumped out of the room they were hiding in and began to sing, "Happy Birthday to you! Happy Birthday to you! Happy Birthday dear Haley! Happy Birthday to you!"

Haley just couldn't believe that every friend on her list showed up for her birthday party! She thought they couldn't come. In fact, deep in her heart, she thought they didn't care.

Haley cried out, "This is the best surprise ever! I'm not alone on my birthday! I'm not alone!"

After the party was over, Haley's mom cleaned up the room and told Haley it was time for bed. As she sat on the side of the bed and tucked Haley in, she said, "Haley, even

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when you thought you were alone, your dad and I were with you. You really weren't alone. And even though you thought no one cared, your friends really did care. And even though you thought there was no one around who understood what you were going through and how you felt so alone, we all understood."

"Haley, sometimes in this life, you will feel like you are all alone, but you are never alone. Jesus is always with you and He not only understands what you are going through, but He also cares. And when you least expect it, He will surprise you by showing up in ways that will make your heart smile!"

"And Haley, God has given you your parents and friends whom you can talk to and count on. He has given you family and friends who will help you when you need help, who will give you good, godly advice when you aren't sure what to do, and who you can play with, laugh with and even cry with."

"So, Haley, always remember, that even when you feel like you are alone, you are never alone."

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- * **NOT ALONE** is a story that was written to accompany **The Making of a Mom** by Stephanie Shott through Revell Publishing. **NOT ALONE** accompanies Chapter 1 of **The Making of a Mom** and is to be used to minister to children during KIDs Group while their moms are in their MOM Group.
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