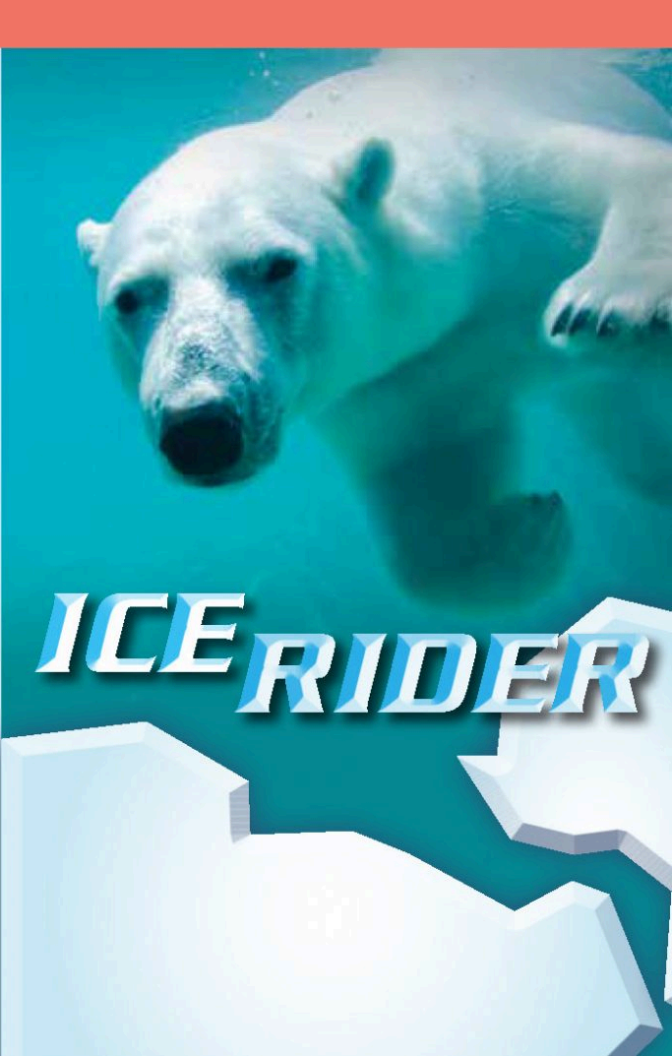

ICE RIDER



***ICE RIDER** was very tired. She had been swimming for two days without stopping. This was her first long swim. She followed her mother for the first day. Today she could not swim as quickly. Now she is lost in the sea. She is alone and frightened. But she must go on. She must find a large ice floe. She must find food.*

Ice Rider lives in the Beaufort Sea in northern Canada. She is a polar bear or "sea bear". A long time ago a name for a polar bear was 'The Rider of Ice'.

Ice Rider's home was on the sea ice. The huge piece of ice was always moving and changing. The ice in the southern Beaufort Sea begins to melt and break apart in the summer. Polar bears 'ride' the sea ice to more easily

reach their food. The polar bears must go ashore and not eat for several months or they must swim long distances to reach pack ice. Ice Rider's mother had decided to swim. Now Ice Rider is exhausted and very hungry. She must find rest soon! She needs help!

Polar bears are made for the extreme cold of the Arctic.

They have thick fur. The fur is made of two layers. The underfur is insulating. It is topped by guard hairs of different lengths. And the fur is not actually white! It just looks that way. Each hair is transparent and has no colour. The hollow hair reflects light. To keep them warm, polar bears have



black skin over a thick layer of fat.



The ears and tails of a polar bear are small. This helps them to not lose body heat. Their paws are wide. They have black foot pads on the bottom. The pads are covered by small, soft bumps. The bumps help them to tread on thin ice without slipping. When they swim, the front paws are like large paddles. Their strong, thick claws are sharp and curved which help them walk on ice.



Suddenly, Ice Rider saw something moving. She swam nearer. She saw that it was a large piece of pack ice. Standing on the ice was an adult polar bear. It was her mother! She swam to the ice. She remembered what to do. Her mother had taught her

how to climb up on the ice. Finally, she could rest! She lay down. She sniffed. She could smell seal. Soon she would eat.

We are like Ice Rider in some ways. We may be afraid or lonely or have other problems. There are things that we cannot do by ourselves. We need help!

> When we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.
> Romans 5:6

Our family and friends may think that we are a good person. We do not do many bad things. But each of us has a sinful heart. Every person does and thinks in ways that are not pleasing to God Who made us. We need to confess that we sin. We each need God's forgiveness and help. We need to believe that the Lord Jesus loved us and died for our sins. When we trust in Him as our own Saviour, He will be with us and help us. Then we will have rest and peace.

POLAR BEAR FACTS

Polar bears like to be clean and dry. They use snow for washing.

Most polar bears sleep for seven or eight hours at a time. They take naps, too!

Polar bears have 42 teeth!

Polar bears often wait patiently for hours or even days for food. They are waiting for a seal to surface at a breathing hole in the sea ice.

Polar bears are strong swimmers. They are able to swim underneath thin ice.

INTERNATIONAL BIBLE HOUSE
PUBLISHING SOCIETY

WWW.IBHGOSPEL.COM