

# Not Just an Ordinary Spaceman...

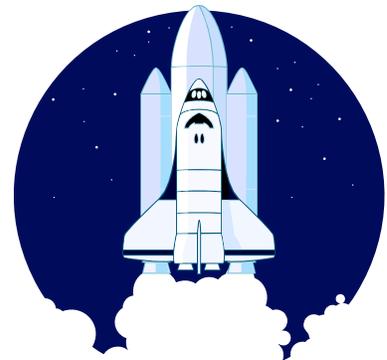
... Except that all astronauts are *extraordinary people* doing an extraordinary job !!

**Rick Husband** was born in Amarillo, Texas, on July 12, 1957. Even at the age of four, he was fascinated with airplanes flying overhead, and from the time he was in fourth grade, his friends all knew **he wanted to be an astronaut**. The desire drove him to work hard in school and get a good education.



*Rick joined the United States Air Force, where he applied an important life lesson during his pilot training: If you learn good techniques early on, it keeps you out of trouble later.*

He also knew disappointment. It took several applications before he was accepted as a **NASA astronaut**. But when he was finally accepted, he went at it full tilt, and in 1999 became **pilot** on a **space shuttle mission** – STS-96 on *Discovery*.



Rick Husband *couldn't* be ordinary. In his marriage, he became an especially caring person. As a father, he was a very special dad. And in his career, he was superb. Even as a spaceman, he was beyond ordinary — **he was a leader, a mentor, a confidant, and a friend !!**

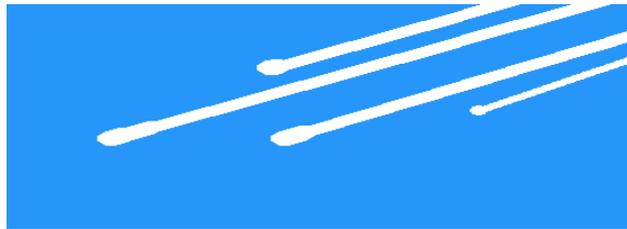
But he had help. Rick prayed to Jesus. A lot.



Rick was a very strong Christian. In his life, he put God first, his family second, and work third.

*(Isn't it amazing that someone could put an important job – like being an astronaut – third in life?)* He was humble in everything he did, had a great sense of humour, and had a way of making people feel special. When he became a shuttle commander, he was well-liked by his crew and all those he worked with, and he did a fantastic job.

Rick Husband died flying over Texas on February 1, 2003, living his dream and doing what he loved. Rick was commander for space mission STS-107 — the space shuttle *Columbia*.



"Faith doesn't give us the power to change things. It gives us the ability to cope with the tough things that come our way."

*– from Rick Husband's Journal*



*For further reading:*

**"HIGH CALLING — The Courageous Life and Faith of Space Shuttle Columbia Commander Rick Husband"** by Evelyn Husband (with Donna Vanliere). Thomas Nelson Publishers – 2003.