



little
visits[®]
with
God

LITTLE VISITS LIBRARY

Little Visits with God

Little Visits with Jesus

Little Visits for Toddlers

Little Visits: 365 Family Devotions, Volume 1

Little Visits: 365 Family Devotions, Volume 2

Little Visits: 365 Family Devotions, Volume 3

Little Visits: 365 Family Devotions, Volume 4



little visits[®] with God

Allan Hart Jahsmann
Martin P. Simon
Illustrated by Deborah White





This edition published 2006
Text © 1957, 1995 Concordia Publishing House
Illustrations © 2006 Concordia Publishing House

3558 S. Jefferson Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63118-3968
1-800-325-3040 • www.cph.org

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior written permission of Concordia Publishing House.

Written by Allan Hart Jahsmann and Martin P. Simon
Illustrated by Deborah White

Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®. Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers, Wheaton, Illinois. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked NIV are from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing House. All rights reserved.

This publication may be available in braille, in large print, or on cassette tape for the visually impaired. Please allow 8 to 12 weeks for delivery. Write to the Library for the Blind, 7550 Watson Rd., St. Louis, MO 63119-4409; call 1-866-215-6852; or e-mail to blind.mission@blindmission.org

Manufactured in the United States of America

Contents

Foreword	8	God's Business	62
Authors' Note	9	Joseph and the Mouse	64
Why We Can Always Be Happy	10	The Fun of Being Kind	66
What God Made	12	Grieving the Holy Spirit	68
Not Seen, but Loved	14	God Never Forgets His Children	70
Service with a Smile	16	Angel Helpers	72
Let God Do Your Worrying	18	God Wants Us to Be Thankful	74
Singing Praises to God	20	How to Treat Mean People	76
What Do You Think You Own?	22	The Hardest Words to Say	78
How to Get Clean Inside	24	Avoiding Sin	80
Always Thank God!	26	What the Flowers Said	82
Following Our Leader	28	Jesus Never Changes	84
God Sees Everything	30	Are You a Liar?	86
God Counts Our Hairs	32	The Grumble Box	88
How Jesus Obeyed for Us	34	Do You Love All People?	90
How Others Get to Know You	36	Where to Find Rest	92
God Can Do Anything	38	The Peacemakers	94
A Man Who Was Helpful	40	Telling the Truth Can Be Wrong	96
Are You Glad to Go to Church?	42	Following Jesus	98
Are You Growing as a Christian?	44	Don't Bear a Grudge	100
Where God Is	46	When Sheep Get Lost	102
Why Not Ask?	48	The Right Highway	104
How Strong God Is!	50	The Right to Eat	106
You Shall Not Covet	52	Where Sins Come From	108
Practicing Your Lessons	54	A Poor Rich Man	110
The Way to Love Everyone	56	Singing to the Lord	112
Why the World Is So Pretty	58	Learning God's Way	114
Thank God All You Can	60	Giving and Receiving	116
		How to Be Friends with Jesus	118
		Let God Decide	120

God Protects His People	122	Feeling Sorry for Other People	202
How Can We Be Strong?	124	God Listens to His Children	204
What God's Care Is Like	126	Why Terrell Didn't Worry	206
The Escalator to Heaven	128	The Best Helper in the World	208
When You're Happy Inside	130	Reasons for Being Thankful	210
What We Do When We Sin	132	Our Lord Is Mighty	212
Do You Like to Give Things?	134	The Best Thoughts	214
A Good Way to Have Fun	136	What Jesus Can Do for Us	216
God's Gifts Are Free	138	How to Treat Others	218
The Better Way	140	Where to Get Forgiveness	220
Something Jesus Wants Very Much	142	The Soft Answer	222
Never Be Afraid	144	More Wonderful Than Soap	224
The Greatness of God's Love	146	Two Reasons for Being Happy	226
How to Have Good Friends	148	The Captains of Our Home	228
Your Wonderful Body	150	Why God Made the Night	230
Why Christians Are Glad	152	What Does God Look Like?	232
How to Become Great	154	Wonderful Things God Can Do	234
Don't Blow Your Own Horn	156	How God Forgives Sins	236
God Can See Who Believes	158	Don't Lose Your Temper	238
Talk Is Cheap	160	Doing the Best You Can	240
Take No Revenge	162	What You Can Do to Get Even	242
What Your Soul Should Do	164	Jesus Will Keep His Word	244
God Knows What You Think	166	Where Love Comes From	246
How to Treat Mean Children	168	Why Jesus Died	248
The Best Lesson of All	170	Does God Love Bad People?	250
The Best Flashlight	172	What He Did Counts for Me	252
Some Words Are Like Medicine	174	How to Keep from Sinning	254
How to Walk in Love	176	The Riches of God	256
Let's See What You Believe	178	Relatives of Jesus	258
Is Your Mouth Clean?	180	Some Troubles Are Good	260
What God Is Ready to Do	182	Two Places Where God Lives	262
Places to Pray	184	Make-Believe Gods	264
The Lord Is Love	186	How to Get Clean on the Inside	266
What Jesus Wants Us to Be	188	Smile before Sundown	268
Knowing and Doing	190	We Are Never Alone	270
Our Holy God	192	Our Lord Is Never Proud	272
What to Do When You're Afraid	194	Doing What God Wants	274
Are You a Shining Example?	196	Always Tell the Truth	276
Is God Slow?	198	They Didn't Think God Would	278
The Lord Is My Shepherd	200	What Heaven Is Like	280

God Made Everything	282	Our Heavenly Map	368
Why Jesus Gave His Life Away	284	Don't Worry about Tomorrow	370
How Old Is God?	286	God's Blessings	372
Why We Pray in Jesus' Name	288	A Boy Who Was Always Happy	374
Choosing the Right Path	290	Jesus Knows Everything	376
Our Maker	292	Adopted Children of God	378
How to Forgive Others	294	How to Be Brave	380
God's Children Trust in Jesus	296	When to Be Happy	382
The Meetings Jesus Attends	298	Why Our Sins Are Forgiven	384
Will God Ever Forget Us?	300	The Golden Rule	386
God Watches over Us	302	Something to Remember	388
Thinking of God First	304	The Load Only Jesus Can Lift	390
Jesus Wants to Shine in Us	306	The Biggest Surprise Ever	392
Jesus Loves Us	308	We Trust in Jesus	394
We Belong to God	310	How People Become Christians	396
Getting Along with Others	312	The Refugee Family	398
Why Keep On Praying?	314	Giving God Thanks	400
Imitating Jesus	316	God's Gifts Are Free	402
Don't Quit Doing Good	318		
Something to Get Rid Of	320	Seasonal Devotions	
God's Law Is Good	322	The Most Wonderful Night	404
What Good Does Salt Do?	324	The Most Wonderful Day	406
Going to God's House	326		
Jesus Always Helps	328	Indexes	
God's Children	330	Topical Index	408
God Is Great and Good	332	Scripture Index	410
God's Word Is Sweet	334		
God's Kindness Never Stops	336		
Letting God Decide Things	338		
What God Wants to Borrow	340		
Happy People	342		
Serving Others As Jesus Did	344		
Helping Jesus Save the Lost	346		
Don't Be Afraid	348		
Seventy-Seven Times	350		
Seeing What God Is Like	352		
What Makes Christians Grow?	354		
What to Think About	356		
What Love Does	358		
What Kind of Giver Are You?	360		
Praying Together Helps	362		
Are We Full of Good Works?	364		
How Cheerful Are You?	366		

Foreword

Here, indeed, is a unique book of devotions for families with young children. While involving their interest and participation, it also offers rich instruction for older children and adults.

There is nothing routine and formal about these devotions. They are full of warmth, dipped right out of life. Those of us whose children are grown could almost wish them young again in order to share these readings with them.

This book will help children not only to know about God but also to love Him and to trust in Him. It cultivates right attitudes and shows how the Christian faith is to function in daily living. These devotions touch the heart as well as reach the mind. They are childlike without being childish. They lead to Jesus, the Savior and Good Shepherd. And it is through childlike trust in Jesus that we are saved.

The authors are to be congratulated on their achievement, rarely equaled in the devotional literature I have seen. The church has produced many prayer books for small children. This is one of the first devotional books to capture the interest of the child along with the parent and to relate this interest to a discussion of the truths of Christian faith and life.

The authors represent a fine combination of talents united in a common task. Martin P. Simon, former editor of *The Christian Parent* magazine, was known for his ability to draw illustrations from everyday life. Allan Hart Jahsmann is a specialist in Sunday School materials for small children. He is the author of *Teaching Little Amalee Jane* and knows her brother Johnny, too.

It is a distinct pleasure to help send this book on its way into the hearts and homes of Christian parents and into the lives of their children. By using these devotions early in life, parents will sow seeds that will enrich all the years to come. Worship periods in the home produce God-fearing people who are also a blessing to others. May the church have many families who meet with God daily in family worship.

—*Oscar E. Feucht*

Authors' Note

The language used in these devotions was determined largely by a concern for the child. This accounts for the frequent use of popular, although sometimes “incorrect,” grammar and the simplification of some of the Bible verses. Brief life-experience stories have been related to make the devotional readings more interesting and meaningful. You can provide a happy learning situation by taking time to visit with God as a family—either at the breakfast or supper table or at the child’s bedtime. Older children will enjoy reading this book personally. The discussion questions are for informal conversation, and a hymn may precede or follow the reading. May the Holy Trinity be pleased with the book, and may all who use it be enriched as they commune with God and learn to follow their Savior, Jesus, more faithfully every day in every way.

—*A. H. J., M. P. S.*



Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Psalm 32:1

Why We Can Always Be Happy

Jeremy wasn't happy. When his dad came home from work, Jeremy hurried upstairs. Mom called him four times before he came down to supper.

At the table, Dad asked, "Who broke the window in the garage?" Jeremy said nothing, but he felt his face get hot. "You played ball over there, didn't you?" said Dad. "And we told you not to."

Jeremy looked at his plate and still said nothing. He could hardly swallow the bread he was chewing. Then he began to cry.

"I'm sorry," he said. "I'll pay for it from my allowance. And I won't play ball there again. I promise."

His parents were glad to hear Jeremy talk that way. He was sorry he had done wrong and he promised to do better.

"All right, Jeremy," said Dad softly. "We'll forget it. God forgives you every day because He

loves you. And we forgive you, too, because we love you. But please don't disobey us again."

Next morning Jeremy whistled as he rode to school. He was happy now. God had put joy in his heart. *I wonder why it feels so good to be forgiven*, he thought.

"Thank You, God," he said, "for always being willing to forgive me."

Let's pray: Dear Lord, we're glad we can come to You at any time and receive forgiveness. Keep us from doing wrong, make us sorry for our sins, and keep us as Your happy children because we believe in Jesus, our Savior. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

11

**Let's talk:**

Why didn't Jeremy want to see his dad? What had Jeremy done wrong? Was it easy for Jeremy to say, "I'm sorry"? Why did Jeremy feel so good the next day? The Bible says "Be glad in the LORD . . . and shout for joy" because God forgives our sins every day for Jesus' sake (Psalm 32:11).

Older children and adults may read:

Psalm 32:8–11



In the beginning, God created
the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1

What God Made

“My new bike is scratched,” Jordan said. “I’ll wait a few days; maybe it will get better.” Will that bike get fixed? Not by itself.

“My hand is scratched,” Ashley said. “I’ll put on a Band-Aid; soon it will be better.” Will that hand get better by itself? Yes, it probably will.

What’s the difference? A human person made the bike. God created the hand. The things God created are much more wonderful than anything a human being can make.

What did God create? The Bible says that, in the beginning, all things in the world were created by Him. God created the sun and the moon and the stars. He created the lions and the cows. He created grass and trees and made them begin to grow. He created the first people.

“God saw everything that He had made, and . . . it was very good,” says the Bible (Genesis 1:31). What do you think of that?

When the world was created, God told the first people to take care of the world and rule it (see Genesis 1:28–30 and 2:15). He put many

**Let's talk:**

Why can a hand fix itself while a bike cannot? What are some things God created? For whom did He create them? What did He give to people so they could make things from what He had created? What must God be if He created everything in the world?

Older children and adults may read:

Genesis 1:1–31

wonderful things into the world for people to use to make things. He also gave people minds so they could figure out how to make things.

In the very beginning, all things were created by God. And the things God created still can't be made by people. You see, God is much wiser and greater than the people He created.

Let's pray: What a wonderful world You have created for us, Lord. All You have created shows Your great power and love. We're glad that You created us and that You also saved us when we became spoiled by sin. Give us your Holy Spirit so we may all be and remain Your children. In Jesus' name. Amen.