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GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY EDITION

Little Visits[®] with God



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ILLUSTRATIONS BY DEBORAH WHITE



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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.

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