

## Prayer made a difference!

By Aria

A couple of summers ago, I went to a sleep-away summer camp, but I ended up staying for only a small part of it because I was scared and homesick. I'd never been away from home before, and I missed my family very much.

Later, when I was in fifth grade, our class went to a science camp. This time, I had a great time and wanted to stay even longer. That's because I prayed!

I realized that when I'd gone to the summer camp, I had let fear be the boss of me, and I hadn't prayed at all. At science camp, I prayed in the morning and before I went to bed. Sometimes, I even prayed during the day.

Some of the prayers that helped me were ones I learned in the Christian Science Sunday School, like the "Daily Prayer" on page 41 of the *Manual of The Mother Church*. I'd also memorized two prayers that Mary Baker Eddy wrote for children. (You can find both of these prayers on page 69 of her book called *Poems*.) Here's the way one of them goes:

> Father-Mother God, Loving me,— Guard me when I sleep; Guide my little feet Up to Thee. ("Mother's New Year Gift to the Little Children")

These prayers helped me to know that God was taking care of me—almost like having a warm blanket over me that made me feel safe and protected. Praying made the difference so that fear couldn't be the boss of me. Instead of feeling scared, I felt close to God and had a good time at science camp. •

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## Favorite hymns

I just finished second grade, and I go to the Christian Science Sunday School.

I have a favorite hymn. It's Hymn 148 in the *Christian Science Hymnal*, and it starts out, **"In heavenly Love abiding"** (Anna L. Waring). I like it because my grandma sings it to me.

The words in the hymn that I especially like are: "God is round about me,/And can I be dismayed?" They help me to know that God loves me and is always beside me, so I can't be sad. —*Raegan* 

My favorite hymn is number 477, which starts out, **"Feed my lambs, tend my sheep"** (Natalie Sleeth, *Christian Science Hymnal, Hymns 430–603*). I learned it in the Christian Science Sunday School, where I go with my sister and brother.

I like it because the melody is very pretty, and it has a great message about God protecting us the way a shepherd protects and looks after his sheep. It reminds me that, no matter what, God is always taking care of me. *—Ellie* 

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What happened at the beginning?

How did I pray?

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