



Christian Science Sentinel

"What I say unto you I say unto all, *Watch.*" —Jesus

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A Collection for Kids



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A Collection for Kids: July–December 2023

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE SENTINEL

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We look forward to hearing from you!

Summer camp and Soul

Jenny Sinatra

I WAS IN MY CABIN at summer camp, staring up at the wooden rafters as I thought about my activities that week. I'd been water-skiing and I fell, hitting the lake in an awkward way. I loved to water-ski, so this didn't feel like a big deal. But now I was sore on one side of my body. The other side felt fine.

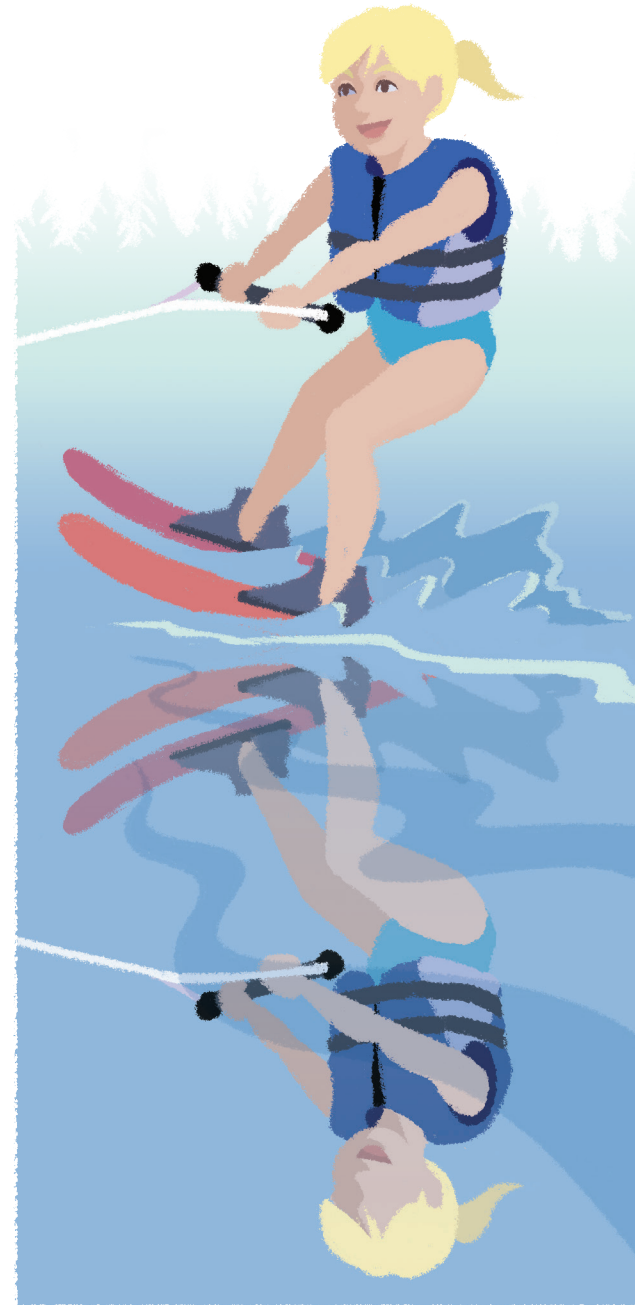
"That's strange," I thought. "Half of me is hurt, and half of me is OK."

But was that right? I prayed about this, thinking about what I knew about God.

In Christian Science Sunday School, I'd learned a lot of different names, or synonyms, for God. My favorite was Soul. Soul includes symmetry and balance. I knew I expressed God. So it was impossible for me to be "asymmetrical"—uneven—when it came to my health and wholeness. That just didn't make sense! I considered this for a while and saw that I couldn't be unbalanced or just half OK. God helps us see that we are totally OK in His loving care and gives us the intelligence to keep knowing this.

In a little bit, I felt fine. I was no longer sore. It was clear to me that how I was thinking about myself had changed, and I'd been healed.

Now I often remember this experience when I feel like the good in my life is lopsided in some way. Because of Soul, I have to express symmetry—in all ways.●



ANNA LITWILLER — STAFF

Originally published in the July 3, 2023, issue of the *Christian Science Sentinel*.

The cut had already closed

Reed

ONCE WHEN I WAS LITTLE, I was playing in the bathtub. I stood up, and then I slipped and hit my head on the edge of the tub.

I got a cut under my eyebrow. My dad put a washcloth on the cut, and my mom started praying. My mom reminded me of something that I learned in Christian Science Sunday School. She said that God is perfect, which means that I'm perfect, too, because I am His child. This helped me and comforted me.

My mom and dad wondered if I might need stitches. But as my mom prayed, they stopped worrying, because they knew that God was taking care of me, no matter what. Soon my dad took the washcloth off my face, and the cut had already completely closed. I was healed!

This taught me that God is always caring for me. •



ANNA LITWILLER — STAFF

Originally published in the July 17, 2023, issue of the *Christian Science Sentinel*.

Summer adventures with God

Joan Ware

IF YOU'VE BEEN TO Christian Science Sunday School, you've probably learned that God is good. It's easy to remember. Just add an extra *o* to the word *God* and it becomes *good*. You may also have learned that God is ever present. That means we can never be away from God or separated from God's goodness. Since God is everywhere, He's with us at home, in school, and on vacation. We are never alone, no matter what.

One summer I discovered this for myself. I was visiting an island. Since the island was surrounded by water, I had to ride a ferryboat to get back home.

While I was waiting for the ferry, I saw a big green forest with an interesting trail. I decided to walk the trail. It was a fun hike, but on the way back, I took a side path and got lost. There were so many huge trees that I couldn't figure out which way to go. I was afraid that I wouldn't get back in time to get on the ferryboat.

I thought about what I'd learned in Sunday School: I can turn to God anytime I need help, because God is always present, giving me good and guiding thoughts. So I listened with all my heart for God's message.

I heard these words from God: "You are not alone. I am right here with you. I will never leave you."

As soon as I heard God's message, I felt calm and unafraid. I looked around and immediately knew which path to take. I got back to the ferry on time and enjoyed the ride home.

Every summer adventure is better, safer, and more fun with God. As you listen for God's messages, you'll know what to do, where to go, and how to act. And you'll feel filled up with the goodness that comes from knowing that you're always with God and God is always with you! •

Originally published in the July 31, 2023, issue of the *Christian Science Sentinel*.

Notes

New to Sunday School

Nolan

MY NAME IS NOLAN. I'm going into fourth grade, and I'm new to Christian Science Sunday School. My mom thought my brother and I should go so we could see if we liked it. I've had fun learning very cool stuff. Let me tell you about it, in case you've never been to Sunday School and want to know what it's like.

One Sunday, I told my Sunday School teacher that I'm making a comic book. She asked if I would like to watch cartoons drawn by other Christian Science Sunday School students my age (see christianscience.com). The first one I chose to watch was called "Alone at School." I wanted to watch it because sometimes I feel alone at school, too. It was cool how the little girl in the video remembered that "some people forget they're God's brilliant reflection," but that's what everyone really is! Then, at school she looked for ways to be kind, and even told a bully to say nicer things—and he was nicer!

One Christian Science cartoon I've watched several times is called "Creation Myth Busters." It's funny. And it made me think of a question. So, one Sunday I asked my teacher, "If God made everything good, how could the serpent from Genesis be evil?"

She answered by asking me to read a testimony from *The Christian Science Journal* out loud. It was about a woman who was bitten by a dog—on her rear end! She cleaned the wound and asked a Christian Science practitioner to pray with her. This idea from *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy helped her think about the dog: "All of God's creatures, moving in the harmony of Science, are harmless, useful, indestructible" (p. 514). The pain stopped, and the next morning there wasn't any sign of a dog bite.



ANNA LITWILLER — STAFF

Next, my teacher asked me to read from the first chapter of Genesis in the Bible, “God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good” (verse 31). Then we read from the second chapter, “The Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground” (verse 7). Those two things sounded like opposites. My teacher explained that this part of the Bible was originally written in a language called Hebrew. The word *dust* in Hebrew also means rubbish. I know God didn’t make us from rubbish! So then I understood that the story in Genesis 2 couldn’t be true. So that means the serpent is part of a story made up to teach a lesson, but it isn’t really real. Each one of us, and every animal, too, is very good, like it says in Genesis 1 and like the lady proved with the dog in her healing.

I’m really glad my mom brought us to Christian Science Sunday School. It’s helped me a lot—like, at school I have a lot more friends now, so I no longer feel alone. I can’t wait to learn more about God and healing through prayer. •

Originally published in the August 14, 2023, issue of the *Christian Science Sentinel*.

Safe in the ocean

Maryann McKay

I WANT TO TELL YOU a story about my friend Teddy. This happened when Teddy was all grown up. But what helped him was something he learned in Christian Science Sunday School when he was very little.

Teddy loves to swim, especially in the ocean.

One day at the beach, Teddy swam until he was tired and hungry. Time to eat! He headed for shore to have lunch with his parents. But there was a strong current that made it hard to get there.

As Teddy felt more and more tired, he suddenly realized that he was caught in a rip tide. A rip tide is when some of the ocean water moves away from the shore instead of toward it. Rip tides can be very strong and hard to get out of. Teddy started to be afraid. There wasn’t a lifeguard in sight. And while Teddy didn’t think his parents had noticed that anything was wrong, his dad was actually running up and down the beach trying to find help.

But help was already with Teddy. Just then, he remembered a hymn from the *Christian Science Hymnal* that he had learned in Sunday School. Maybe you know it, too! The first line says, “Shepherd, show me how to go” (Mary Baker Eddy, No. 304). When we ask God to help us, like in the hymn, we are praying. And we can be sure that God always answers our prayers.

Teddy knew that God had answered his prayer when a thought popped into his head. The idea he got was to stop fighting the riptide and float on his back. Teddy knew it was God speaking to him, because he started to feel calm.

Teddy also knew he needed to do what God had said, since he had asked God for help. And floating on his back really did help. Soon Teddy floated out of the riptide. Now it was easy to swim back to shore, just in time for lunch with his parents. Teddy’s mom and dad were so relieved that he was OK. And Teddy was so grateful that he had listened to God and that God had helped him.

Maybe you’d like to read more of the hymn that helped Teddy. The first verse talks about how God takes care of us and is always talking to us. It also tells us that there are three things that we, His children, should do. It says,

Shepherd, show me how to go
O’er the hillside steep,
How to gather, how to sow,—
How to feed Thy sheep;
I will listen for Thy voice,
Lest my footsteps stray;
I will follow and rejoice
All the rugged way.

When he asked for help, Teddy was listening to God. He was obedient and followed God’s direction. And he rejoiced by being grateful and happy for God’s loving protection. Those are three things each of us can do—wherever we are and whenever we need to feel safe. •

Originally published in the November 20, 2023, issue of the *Christian Science Sentinel*.

God helped me when I was scared

Nicky

MY NAME IS NICKY. I go to Christian Science Sunday School, where I learn all about God and how God is Love. I'm also learning how to listen to God and the good thoughts He tells us.

One day, my parents went out. My grandma came to take care of my baby sister and me. It was raining a lot, and there was a big puddle outside our back door. My grandma called a plumber to come help us.

I got really afraid and started crying. I thought our house was going to flood. This happens a lot where I live, and it's scary to hear people talk about it.

My grandma told me that our house was fine and that we were safe in God's love. I felt a little better, but I was still crying.

Then Grandma told me to close my eyes and listen to God the way I'd learned to in Sunday School. I closed my eyes and got quiet so I could hear good thoughts from God. I felt God's love so much that I knew everything was fine, and I stopped crying.

The plumber came and fixed a broken pipe outside that had made the puddle.

I am grateful for what I learn in Sunday School and for God's love.●



Originally published in the August 28, 2023, issue of the *Christian Science Sentinel*.

Welcome the good thoughts

Virginia Anders

KATHLYN'S MOM WAS going on a business trip, and Kathlyn was going with her. She was very excited. She had never been on an airplane, seen so many people, or walked among such tall buildings.

When they got to the hotel, a man in a uniform opened the door to the cab, and Kathlyn climbed out. He helped her mom with the luggage and held the front door for them.

“Welcome!” he said.

Kathlyn wondered about him. She had never seen anybody in a uniform like that before.

But when they got to their room, things didn't seem so fun anymore. Kathlyn started feeling sick. Her stomach hurt, and she began to cry. Her mom picked her up and suggested that they pray. Kathlyn had been attending a Christian Science Sunday School, and she'd learned to turn to God about everything. So she snuggled close to her mom, and they started singing hymns together.

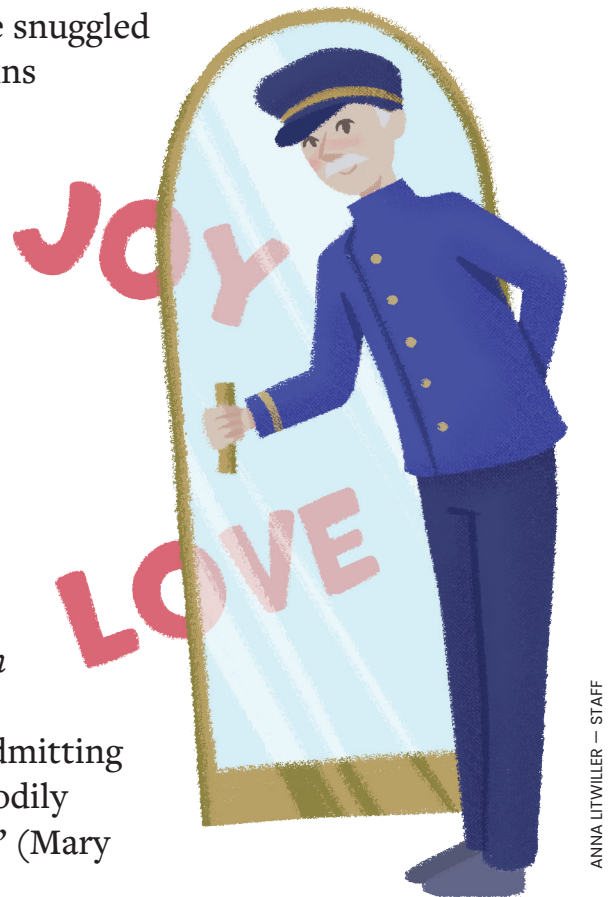
When they finished singing, her mom asked her what she thought about the man in the important-looking uniform at the front door of the hotel. What was his job? Why was he there?

Kathlyn said she thought he was there to let people in the door.

“Everyone?” her mom wondered.

Kathlyn said that he let in the people who belonged there.

Her mom told her she was right, and then she opened a book called *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* and read one part out loud. It says, “Stand porter at the door of thought. Admitting only such conclusions as you wish realized in bodily results, you will control yourself harmoniously” (Mary Baker Eddy, p. 392).



ANNA LITWILLER — STAFF

They talked about how Kathlyn could be like the porter—the man in uniform at the hotel entrance. But she wasn’t going to let people in or keep them out. Kathlyn was going to be a porter for her *thoughts*. Her mom explained that she could consider each thought that came to her to see if it was from God. If it was something good and loving, she could let it in, because God is good and is Love.

Her mom asked if a thought that said her stomach hurt was from God. Kathlyn knew that God loves her. Would He give her a thought that would hurt her? No! So she decided she would be a porter and shut it out. She imagined shutting the door on that bad thought with a satisfying *wham!*

Suddenly Kathlyn realized that her stomach didn’t hurt anymore. She felt perfectly fine. So she and her mom went to the zoo together and had a very fun weekend.

Kathlyn learned that she can be a porter for her thoughts, not just when she isn’t feeling well, but every day. Bad thoughts get the door slammed on them. But Kathlyn opens the door wide for good thoughts from God. And when they come, she says, “Welcome!”•

Originally published in the September 11, 2023, issue of the *Christian Science Sentinel*.

I finished the swim without any trouble!

Brooklee

AT CAMP THIS PAST SUMMER, I decided to participate in a challenging swim in a lake. It’s called the Cherry Swim because we swim from the shore of the lake to a little island called Cherry Island and back. When I’d done this swim with other campers in the past, it was really hard. I got tired, and it was hard to breathe.

This year, as the swim started, the same thing happened. I was frustrated because I wanted to finish the swim, so I decided to pray. I go to a Christian Science Sunday School, where I learn about God, so it was natural for me to turn to God for help.



ANNA LITWILLER — STAFF

Hymns have always helped me when I've prayed before, so as I swam, I sang a hymn that I know from the *Christian Science Hymnal*. It begins, "Shepherd, show me how to go/O'er the hillside steep" (Mary Baker Eddy, No. 304). To me that means that God will help us whenever we need Him—even when we're swimming. (The camp I go to is a camp for Christian Scientists, so I felt comfortable praying and singing out loud.)

During the swim, our counselors were our lifeguards, and they paddled near us in kayaks. One of them paddled over to me and asked if I was OK, because she could tell that I was struggling. She also heard me singing a hymn, so she suggested that we sing another hymn. This one starts, "We are walking in the light of God" (Zulu trad., No. 592, Eng. trans. by Gracia Grindal), but she suggested that we sing, "We are *swimming* in the light of God." I loved that idea. The thoughts from these hymns helped me so much that I stopped worrying about my swimming.

I finished without any trouble, and when I got back to shore, I learned that I had done the swim seven minutes faster than last time!

I'm really grateful for camp because it helps me grow closer to God and have healings like this one. I can't wait to go back next summer and swim in the light of God! •

Originally published in the October 23, 2023, issue of the *Christian Science Sentinel*.

Safe at home plate

Duke

IT WAS A HOT and humid summer day. The sun was shining bright above the baseball field.

I love to play baseball with my friends, and I was super excited to play a game. When it was my turn to bat, I got a hit and got all the way to third base. I really wanted to score for my team.

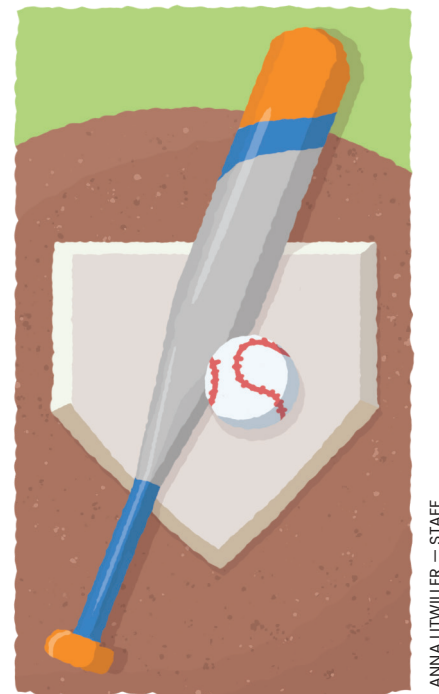
When the pitcher threw the ball past the catcher, I thought I could score, even though the catcher, who was bigger than me, was really close. I took off running, but as I was sliding into home plate, the catcher fell on top of my ankle really hard. I couldn't move.

I lay there in a cloud of dust. But I was not scared, because I have learned to trust God and never to doubt Him. I know that God is protecting me every single second.

I had learned to pray at home, and Christian Science Sunday School helped me to learn about the Bible and all the healings in it. These healings have taught me a lot about God. That day at home plate, I prayed by knowing that I am God's child and that God loves me. I know God loves me, because when I haven't been feeling well, turning to God has healed me.

After a few seconds, I stood up and walked back to the dugout. My dad came over and gave me a hug, and he shared more good ideas about God with me. I felt happy because my ankle didn't hurt anymore and I could keep playing. And I did! Everything has been fine with my ankle ever since.

In my baseball game that day, I was tagged out, but I proved I really was safe at home plate!●



ANNA LITWILLER — STAFF

Originally published in the November 6, 2023, issue of the *Christian Science Sentinel*.

Nehemiah's story

Jenny Sawyer

NEHEMIAH

Hi! I'm Nehemiah. You can find my story in the book of the Bible with my name: Nehemiah.

My story is all about praying, listening, and following God. Whether you want to help out in a little way or you want to help out in a big way, the only way to succeed is to pray, listen, and follow. Pray, listen, and follow. Here's how I found that out for myself:

NARRATOR

Back when Nehemiah lived, some cities had walls around them. The walls helped protect important places in the city, like the temple. They also kept the people inside the city safe.

So Nehemiah was very sad when he found out that the wall around his home city, Jerusalem, was all broken. Nehemiah wanted to do something to help. But what could he do?

Time to pray, Nehemiah!

Nehemiah prayed and asked God for help. He asked God to remember His promise to take care of His people. Nehemiah also asked God to help him know what to say to the king about his plans.

See, Nehemiah wanted to rebuild the wall. But he already had another job. He was what's called a cupbearer for the king. He wasn't sure if the king would let him go. But he at least had to ask.

Pretty soon, Nehemiah got his chance.

The next time he brought the king a drink in his cup, the king noticed that Nehemiah looked sad.

"What's wrong?" he asked.

Time to listen, Nehemiah!

Nehemiah prayed and listened to God. He wanted to know the right words to say to the king. Nehemiah took a deep breath. Then he told the king how he wanted to help rebuild Jerusalem's walls.

The king agreed! He even did what he could to help. And pretty soon, Nehemiah was on his way. He'd prayed, he'd listened to God, and now he was following God, step by step.

Jerusalem didn't look good when Nehemiah got there. Its walls were all broken and its gates were burned. Nehemiah knew that he and the people needed to get to work.

"Let's rebuild!" Nehemiah encouraged them. "God is supporting our work, and so is the king."

"We're ready!" said the people.

It was a big job. It was a dirty, messy, and hard job. But Nehemiah kept praying. He kept listening to God. He kept following God, step by step.

The people of Jerusalem were very busy. Some of them repaired the wall in front of their houses. Some of them were rebuilding the gates.

But some people outside of Jerusalem were making trouble. They didn't want the people to succeed. They started to say mean things to Nehemiah. They tried to stop the work.

"That wall is so badly put together, it would fall apart if a little fox climbed on it!" one of them said.

Time to pray, Nehemiah!

Nehemiah asked God for help again. Then he did what God had asked him to do: He kept on building.

But some of the people heard what the enemies were saying. The people were already feeling tired from all the building. They started to feel like maybe the job was too hard.

“We’ll never finish this wall,” they said.

But Nehemiah had been praying and listening to God. He knew just what to do. He asked some people to protect the wall with their swords and arrows. And he asked the other people to keep building.

“Don’t be afraid,” Nehemiah told them. “Keep your thoughts on God. We’re going to finish this wall!”

Day and night the people worked. Those who were building held a spear in one hand and did their building with the other. From the time the sun rose until the time the stars came out they worked . . .

and worked . . .

and worked . . .

and worked!

It took days and days. It wasn’t always easy. But finally, the wall was rebuilt. All that was left to do was put the gates in. The people were almost done. But their enemies weren’t. They tried to play a trick on Nehemiah. A very, very bad trick that would put Nehemiah in danger. They wanted him to leave the rebuilding work and meet them many miles away in the Plain of Ono.

Time to listen, Nehemiah!

Because Nehemiah had been praying and listening to God, he wasn’t fooled by the enemies’ trick. Even though they tried to play this same trick one, two, three, FOUR times, Nehemiah still wasn’t fooled. He knew the enemies thought they would never finish the wall. But he also knew the enemies were wrong, because he was sure the idea to do this work had come from God.

Nehemiah prayed, “God, give me strength.”

Fifty-two long days after Nehemiah and the people started their work, the gates were in, and the wall was finished!

The people were happy! Nehemiah was happy! The enemies? They were scared. They knew the people couldn’t have done the building on their own. Now they knew God must have been there. When they thought about God supporting the people, the enemies went away quickly.

Nehemiah had prayed. He had listened to God. He had followed God. Even when things had been hard, Nehemiah never stopped.

And that's what you can do, too. Whether you're helping in a little way or you're helping in a big way, you can pray, listen, and follow. Pray, listen, and follow.

NEHEMIAH

Can you see now how my story is all about praying, listening, and following God? Maybe it can help you think of a time when you prayed, heard an idea from God, and did what God said.

Here is what some Christian Science Sunday School students had to say about how they know they're hearing God and how it helps them:

"I don't listen to bad, enemy thoughts, because they don't come from God. God is good, so God tells me only good things and helps me do good. When I have a thought to be nice to someone, even if they weren't nice to me, I'm listening to God and following God, just like Nehemiah."

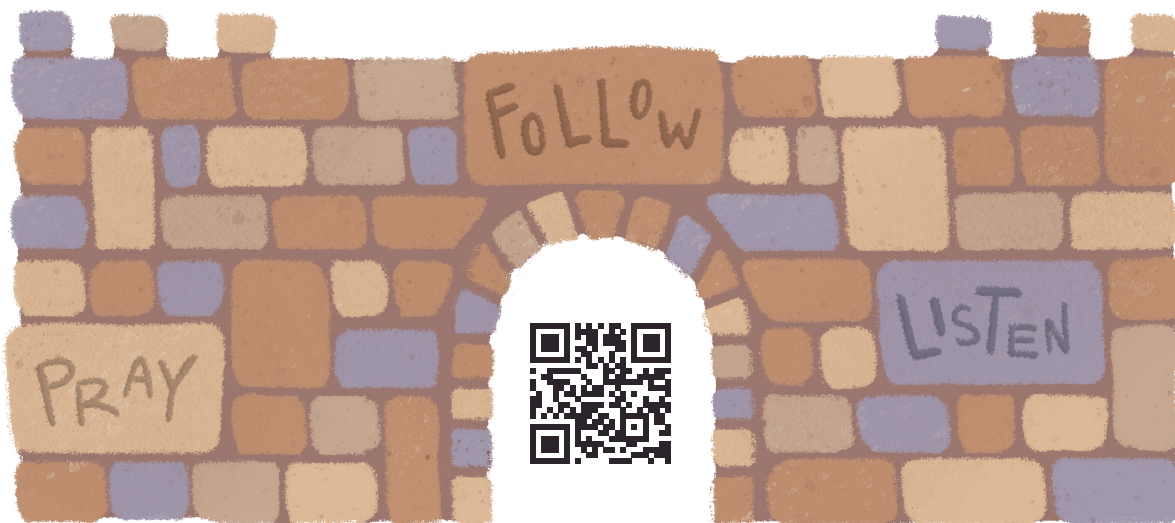
And here's what another said: "When I pray, I know I'm hearing God when I feel peaceful inside. Listening to God heals me, and then I can help others."

What did you learn from my story? •

KIDS VIDEO

Nehemiah's Story has a video!

To watch a video and hear a song about the story of Nehemiah, visit cssentinel.com/nehemiah or use this QR code.



ANNA LITWILLER — STAFF

Originally published in the December 4, 2023, issue of the *Christian Science Sentinel*.

Moonbeam

R. Kris Barthelmess

WALKING NORTH ALONG the beach,
The lakeshore to my right,
The sand is cool, the water calm,
Dark and clear the night.
A full moon rises in the east,
Moonbeam shining bright
Across the water, right to me—
A single path of light.

And as I go, it follows me
As God's illumining ray.
It tells me that I'm not alone;
In darkness, it's my day.
This light of Love is here with me—
Some comfort I can take.
It keeps my stride, my gentle guide,
Along the dark, clear lake.

Then someone walking south that night
(Another passerby?)
Approaches, stops, and talks with me.
We stare into the sky.
She says she's walked this way before
With no one else in sight,
But still she had a friend with her:
Her moonbeam shining bright.

God is here for everyone,
Protecting us from harm—
A present help in trouble,
A love that keeps us warm.
And we can find this gift of light
Wherever we may be,
A moonbeam full of love that shines
For all of us to see.



ANNA LITWILLER — STAFF

Originally published in the September 25, 2023, issue of the *Christian Science Sentinel*.

Loving all God's creatures

Lorelei de la Reza

"LOOK MOMMY, IT'S RAINING!"

Miranda rushed past her mom and out the back door to feel the rain splashing down. The cool droplets were refreshing after several weeks of Texas heat. Miranda thought her plants might enjoy the showers, too. So she brought them outside to the deck for some water.

Before she went to bed that night, Miranda went to bring the plants back inside, but there was a spiderweb blocking her way. The web was so big that she couldn't even go around it! Miranda didn't want to hurt the spider, but she did think it might be safer in another place. So she found a stick and encouraged the spider to jump onto it. Then she carefully took the spider to a different part of the deck where it could start building another web.

As she moved the plants back into the house, Miranda thought about one of her favorite lines from *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy. It says, "All of God's creatures, moving in the harmony of Science, are harmless, useful, indestructible" (p. 514). She knew that included her new spider friend.

The next morning, when Miranda went outside, she admired even more of God's creatures. The rain from the day before had left puddles in the street where sparrows were splashing. Miranda saw a robin hopping on the ground, and she also heard the cheerful sounds of cardinals. As the breeze ruffled the leaves of the trees overhead, Miranda suddenly felt something stinging her face. She touched the spot and found an ant. She gently put the ant on the ground, but her cheek hurt where she'd been bitten.

That was when Miranda remembered the spider from the night before. She thought about how she would never harm any of God's creatures because she loved them all. She realized that nothing from God's creation could harm her because all of God's creatures live together in peace and harmony.

ANNA LITWILLER — STAFF

Miranda stayed outdoors a little longer without thinking about her cheek. It didn't sting anymore. The bite was healed, and she felt only love for her new ant friend.

Miranda thanked God. She was grateful that she knew more about how God loves His creation—including the spider and the ant—and how she could love them, too!•

Originally published in the October 9, 2023, issue of the *Christian Science Sentinel*.

My Christmas angel

Bee Holekamp

I WANT TO TELL YOU a Christmas story about how an angel saved my life.

In my family, we talked about angels a lot. Not the people with wings you see on Christmas cards or in windows when you're shopping for gifts. Mary Baker Eddy, who discovered Christian Science, says that *angels* are "God's thoughts passing to man" (*Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, p. 581). I can tell you that angels are real, because one year at Christmas, one talked to me, and that's how it saved my life.

Every year at Christmastime, my family and our friends would drive twenty hours for a ski trip. Since it took a long time to get there, we would talk about lots of things, like the Christmas story, and angels, and what Christmas is all about: how Jesus came to show us that God is always-present, all-powerful Love.

That year, as soon as we got on the slopes, my parents went down a regular slope, and I took off for one of my favorite areas: a



fun section of the mountain just for kids. There were lots of trees and sharp turns. There was also lots of soft, pillowy snow called powder. Powder is fun to ski in, but it can also catch on your skis and pull them in directions you don't expect or don't want them to go.

I was having a great time on the mountain, until a clump of powder caught one of my skis, sending me spinning out of control. I tried to slow down, but instead I just went faster and faster. I couldn't control where I was going, and there were trees all around me. Then, out of the blue, I heard a really loud voice in my head—a voice I had never heard before—shout, “You fall down right now!”

I didn't think. I just obeyed. I fell face-first into the snow. When I finally caught my breath and was able to look up, there was a giant tree touching my nose. If I hadn't fallen down at that exact moment, I would have run straight into that tree.

When I looked around to see who had shouted at me, there wasn't anyone else nearby. I rolled over on my back and lay still for a minute, knowing I was with my Christmas angel—because I was sure that's what I'd heard. I looked up at the trees above me and thanked God for sending me that angel thought. I didn't have even the tiniest scratch! I got up and skied down the mountain to meet my parents.

Ever since I heard that message on the mountain, I try to pay attention so I can hear God's angels. You never know when you'll hear one speaking to you, especially at Christmas.●

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Notes

On the night before Christmas

Sara Hoagland Hunter

IT'S CHRISTMAS EVE, and in my head the candy canes are dancing
While songs of reindeer on the roof remind me I like prancing.
I'm s'posed to be in bed. Instead, I prance and dance and leap.
It's Christmas Day tomorrow! How can anybody sleep?
I hear Mom's footsteps on the stairs and jump back into bed.
She sits right down beside me and begins to pat my head.
She tells a bedtime story of how Christmas came to be
That makes me feel all quiet as she speaks so lovingly
About a tiny baby whose first crib was in some straw,
Surrounded by sweet animals who mooed and cooed in awe.
She tells me of the angel who woke shepherds with bright light
To share a message of great joy that echoed through the night:
"For unto you is born today a Savior—Christ, the Lord!"
That baby born on Christmas Day was God's own Son adored!
And suddenly the sky was filled with crowds of angels singing
About the peace and love for us that Jesus Christ was bringing.
The shepherds smiled in wonder, and the little lambs and sheep
Felt snuggled by our Father-Mother Love and fell asleep.
Mom's telling me a special star was shining high above.
But I am falling fast asleep with Christmas thoughts of love.●



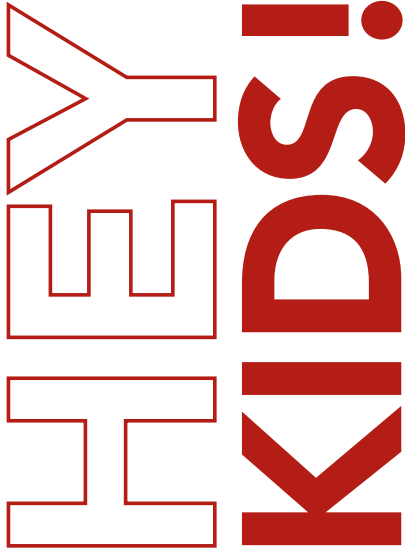
ANNA LITWILLER — STAFF

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This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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