

Jesus loves us



We review the three previous lessons stressing that the Lord Jesus loves us despite our weaknesses. He always forgives us if we try to better ourselves and to overcome our failings. He also loves all lost and sinful people. We want to follow his example and not judge those who have gone astray.

8

The children experience the undeserved, forgiving love of Jesus Christ.
They are strengthened in their efforts to emulate Jesus.

Two New Apostolic children your age are strolling along the pavement on their way home. They are friends, Linda and Monica. Monica's parents have given her permission to stay overnight at Linda's home and both girls are looking forward very much to their evening together. Now a girl from their neighbourhood comes walking towards them. Linda nudges Monica: "Here she comes! Look!" "Patricia! What about her?" asks Monica. Linda bursts out excitedly: "She stole something yesterday! A neighbour saw her." Brusquely, without even looking at her, they pass Patricia. They are not interested in how Patricia feels. But Monica is tremendously interested in this latest bit of news. She questions Linda until she knows all there is to know. Not that Linda knows much, nor does she have any details. Patricia was caught taking something in the big shop on the corner. The shop assistants took her into an office and notified her parents. They had to come and fetch her. Shocked, Monica exclaims: "I would never do something like that!" Suddenly they remember the arguments and disagreements they have had with Patricia. Soon they are speculating what other things Patricia could have done. They are in complete agreement: They want absolutely nothing to do with this girl!

When the two friends are lying in bed a few hours later, they are no longer thinking of Patricia. Linda's parents have allowed them to chat and read before going to sleep. Linda shows an admiring Monica all her toys and they have a lot of fun. Then Monica happens to pick up the Sunday-school book. The girls page through it and look for their favourite pictures and stories. They also remember the stories about the shepherd which they have heard recently.

1

Thoughtfully, Linda remarks: "The Lord Jesus sat down with sinners and ate with them. He did not hold anything against them, on the contrary, he forgave them." Suddenly it becomes quiet in the room. Monica is shyly looking down at the floor. They both realize that they did something wrong today. They no longer feel very happy. Halfheartedly they page on.

2

After a while Linda asks: "Are you also thinking of Patricia?" Monica nods. The two girls start whispering animatedly together. They realize that they, too, are lambs of Jesus. The Lord Jesus knows that God's children also make mistakes. How quickly this happens, how quickly one has hurt others! How good to know that Jesus loves us nevertheless! But we must try to better ourselves and to overcome our weaknesses. Then God is always prepared to forgive again. That is what the

Jesus Christ is our Saviour and Redeemer

friends' discussion is about. They think of a plan to make Patricia happy.

3/4



Jesus is the good shepherd.
He has come to redeem the lost ones.
Jesus Christ heals our soul and protects us.
We want to remain with him and trust him.

- 1** We look at the pictures and the text of the first and second lessons with the children.
We ask them to tell us what has impressed them most.
Then we review the following points:
 - Jesus Christ, the good shepherd
The Lord Jesus loves us as a good shepherd loves his sheep. He knows us and has given us a new name. He knows our strengths, but also our weaknesses. His love for us is very great. He wants us to be with him for all eternity. We cannot earn this love; it is granted to us through grace.
 - The parable of the lost sheep
The Lord Jesus also loves those who have gone astray. He is prepared to love and care for all who need him. We should never judge or condemn people who make mistakes.
- 2** We let the children speculate what the two girls may be planning to make Patricia happy.
Have the children experienced something similar?
Children are often ostracized when they are different, whether this is in dress, because of glasses, looks, race, character, handicaps, religion or unfair treatment.
- 3** The children help the two girls think of a way in which they can please Patricia.
We gather all the ideas and list one in the Children's Book.
- 4** In conclusion, we recall the third lesson:
 - Jesus heals a lame man
It was only because of his good friends that the lame man could reach Jesus and be healed.
The Lord Jesus healed the man's body and soul.

We must be aware that we can also pray for others.
We do not only want to be faithful children of God, but also good and loyal friends.
Linda and Monica could become such friends for Patricia.