

# I am not afraid: the Lord is with me!



We revise the previous three lessons, emphasizing that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and we God's children. We can trust him and need not be afraid. He helps us.

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The children learn to understand what it means to be a child of God and that the heavenly Father loves and protects his children. They need not be afraid.

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Angela and her class are on a school outing of several days. After a long hike on a beautiful day they return to their lodgings. The children are told that they may still enjoy some free time. Angela and two of her friends decide to go down to the village to buy some postcards and have a look around there. Some time later they set off on the way back to their lodgings which lie a little distance outside the village. There are two alternative routes of getting there: one with the bus which labours round the winding and twisting main road; the other on foot by means of a hiking path through a forest. The children decide to walk back. So off they go. They soon notice, however, that they have taken a wrong turn somewhere. Now what? After briefly considering their options the children decide to walk straight across the forest in the direction where they estimate their hotel to be. At first all three are still in a cheerful frame of mind. But this changes drastically when they suddenly come upon an impenetrable thicket. There is absolutely no way through it! Despairingly they stand there .... what now? Angela, the only child of God in the little group, thinks to herself that here only the heavenly Father can help. She prays: "Dear Lord, please show us the right way." At first the children walk around aimlessly. They have lost all sense of direction. Considerable time passes and it is already becoming dark. This only serves to increase their fear. Over and over again Angela pleads: "Dear Lord, protect us and guide us sa-

fely out of this forest."

God hears her persistent and trusting prayer. Suddenly the children stumble upon a narrow path. Finally, a ray of hope..! Angela is convinced that this must be the right way! And so it was. Although the path does not lead to their lodgings, it brings them back into the village from where they have come. Finally they are amongst people again! Angela and her friends are so relieved! One of them suggests: "Let's first contact one of our teachers. They're probably very worried about us by now!"

But the three children do not even get that far for at that very moment a car stops next to them. It is a teacher! He has been looking for them for a long time already! He, too, is very relieved that nothing has happened to them. That evening Angela prays very fervently and thanks the Lord for the angels' protection.

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## Jesus Christ is the Son of God



**1** We study the pictures of the last three lessons with the children. The children recount what they can still remember and what has particularly impressed them. Then we go through the following points once more:

- **The twelve-year-old Jesus in the temple**

Already as a youth, Jesus felt drawn to the temple and the religious leaders. God's wisdom was in him. He amazed the people and the scribes with his knowledge. We also like being in God's house.

- **The storm on the lake**

Jesus Christ saved the frightened disciples from drowning. As the Son of God he had power over nature and could command the storm to abate. This experience strengthened the disciples' trust that Christ can help.

We are children of God. Jesus Christ helps us too!

- **The Lord Jesus walks on water**

The Lord Jesus achieved the impossible: he walked on water! Peter, too, could walk on the water as he walked towards Jesus full of trust and confidence and keeping his eyes firmly fixed on him. Doubt and fear made Peter sink.

Trusting Jesus completely dispels all fear!

**2** The fear experienced by the disciples gives us an opportunity to discuss the children's own fears.

We therefore look at and discuss the picture with the children. What is this young boy feeling? What purpose can fear serve? What do you do when you are afraid? (We can ask the heavenly Father to help us. The dear Lord is with us! The heavenly Father helps us too. We do not have to be afraid.

It would be best to tell the children a personal experience here, but we can also refer to the story.

**3** What can we do in an emergency? What helps us when we are afraid? (Prayer / thinking calmly / reminding ourselves of previous experiences / looking for a person of authority such as parents, priest, teacher etc. and asking for help / being aware that God is with us, protects and helps us and sends out his angels / trusting in God's help etc.)

**4** The children can write down in their book what would give them confidence in situations of fear and distress. They can also draw a picture to illustrate this.