

# Our strength as children of God



*Belief in Jesus Christ and experiencing his love strengthens us time and again. This is revealed by the carrying capacity of God's children.*

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The children perceive how rich their belief in Jesus Christ makes them and how comforting the fellowship of God's children is which accounts for their stamina.

## **S**trength to carry and forgive

Anita could hardly wait for the first day of school. Yet she was a little concerned all the same as she knew that one of the teachers to whose class she might be allocated, could be very strict and unfair at times. Anita brought her worries before the Lord. She prayed every day: "Dear Lord, please give me the right teacher."

To her great disappointment, Anita was allocated to the class of the strict and dreaded teacher. Her mother comforted her: the Lord would surely help her. In the following two years, Anita saw that what had been said of the teacher was true. Her teacher was very strict indeed and often treated the children unfairly. Anita, too, had to endure her share of injustice. This hurt her very much. She often cried bitterly at home. Although her mother understood, she nevertheless advised her daughter to remain friendly and polite. She also went to speak to the teacher to clarify matters. For some time the situation actually improved. Daily Anita and her mother prayed that the Lord would help them and that they could prove themselves to be exemplary children of God. Thus, despite everything, Anita remained joyful. But she learnt much more than reading and arithmetic: she learnt to forgive her teacher and not to hold a grudge. As time passed, she even began to realize that her teacher, in her own

way, liked her and her fellow students, and that she wanted only what was best for them.

### **Courage to tell the truth**

I only wanted to buy a litre of milk and therefore leant my bicycle against the wall outside the shop without locking it. When I came out a few minutes later, it had disappeared! I was both sad and annoyed at my carelessness. Should I mention to my parents that I had left it unlocked? After a short prayer, I first went in search of my bicycle in the vicinity of the shop, but I could not see it anywhere. Now there was nothing for it, but to walk home. After an inner battle, I truthfully related what had happened. Unfortunately the bicycle has never turned up again, but, still today, I am proud that I found the strength to tell the truth.

### **Courage to confess**

As I had joyfully sung in the children's choir for several years, I decided to take singing lessons at school the following year. Because of my previous practice and experience, I soon became a pillar of the school choir.

One day the teacher told us the date of a forthcoming concert. We all looked forward to it very much. But on checking my calendar I found to my dismay that it was a Wednesday. On Wednesdays we went to church! At first I thought that I should perhaps make an exception as the teacher was counting on me. But after a long discussion with my parents, I decided not to take part in the concert. I

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prayed to the dear Lord to help me, for I needed courage to confess my faith. Thus I told my teacher everything. He did not say much, but I could see that he was disappointed. Three days later he asked to see me. "We have changed the concert

to Thursday. Will you be able to sing then?" he asked me. I was glad to tell him that I certainly could, and I thanked the heavenly Father for his wonderful help.

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### 1 Introductory thoughts to the experiences:

On the surface, the lives of God's children hardly differ from those of other people. Each one has his or her own individual circumstances, their own fate. Many of God's children also have to experience great sadness and hardship. We try to ascertain, by means of the following descriptions, whether there are differences after all. (An adult member may be invited to Sunday-school to tell the children of his or her experiences.)

### 2 We look at and discuss the photographs. Children of God receive new strength and confidence time and again in difficult circumstances. We try and find the reasons for this with the children:

- We are never alone. We know that the Lord is aware of all our needs and worries. We can tell him about them again and again. He knows how much each one can carry and he grants the strength to do this.
- We feel safe in the community of God's children. All children of God pray for one another. This is a tremendous source of strength. (Ministers for brothers and sisters, parents for children, the youth for the aged etc.)

### 3 The children relate, draw or write personal experiences. They can also draw their congregation and their friends at Sunday-school.

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