

# We may always turn to the Lord



*We summarize the last three lessons with the children.  
Despite all our mistakes, God is gracious to us time and again.*

58

The children are encouraged to approach God and the ministers in all circumstances of life—even if they have made mistakes.

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oday, while tidying Deborah's room, her mother notices a new box of crayons. When Deborah returns home from school, her mother asks: "Deborah, where did you get the box of crayons lying on your desk? I saw it when I was tidying your room. You didn't mention anything to me about it?" Deborah hesitates for a moment, then says in a subdued voice: "Oh, someone at school gave them to me." Mother looks at her pointedly for a moment, but says nothing.

That evening Deborah looks visibly depressed. Mother asks: "What is the matter, my love? Why are you looking so sad? Is something worrying you?" The little girl starts crying bitterly and says: "Oh, Mommy, I've done a terrible thing!" Mother puts her arms around her and says: "Tell me what you've done, Deborah." Between sobs, the little girl says: "The crayons which you saw in my room belong to Bernard." Mother is a little shocked, but remains silent for a moment, then she says: "Did you take them from him? You know very well that you must not take anything that is not yours. But I can see that you are very sorry." Deborah nods. "What should I do now?" she asks despondently. Mother says calmly: "Take the box of crayons back to Bernard tomorrow and apologize for taking them." By now Deborah is feeling a little better and says: "Bernard will probably be furious with me when I tell him what I've done. Perhaps it would be better if I quietly put the crayons on his desk in the

classroom when no one is around."

"Deborah, I think that would be cowardly," replies her mother. "You should admit your mistake and apologize. It takes courage, but that is being honest. This evening we will pray to the Lord and ask him to help you particularly tomorrow."

"But Mother, can I ask the Lord to help me when I've been so stupid?" Deborah asks dejectedly.

1

Mother now says quite firmly: "Deborah, we may always turn to the Lord in prayer, even if we have made mistakes. We can tell him everything. He gladly helps us. Come, let's pray and tell the Lord everything." Mother and Deborah kneel and pray. Deborah is visibly relieved. They then discuss how Deborah should go about asking Bernard's forgiveness and returning the stolen crayons to him.

2

The next morning Deborah musters all her courage and goes to Bernard. She tells him everything and apologizes sincerely. At first Bernard is mad and gives her a mouthful. But he is glad to have his crayons back. By the afternoon, the two are friends again.

Cheerfully Deborah comes home from school. Together Deborah and her mother thank the Lord for his help. That evening Mother says: "Today the Lord is especially happy with you. He is always happy when one recognizes one's mistakes and betters oneself. The Lord Jesus already spoke about this. He told two parables to illustrate the point:

## Jesus is our Saviour and Redeemer

the parable of the lost silver coin and the parable of the prodigal son.” Mother relates both parables to Deborah after which she falls asleep happily.

3/4



- 1 What do the children think about Deborah's question? (We may always turn to the Lord for help. In all circumstances of life—even after having made mistakes—we may turn to him and ask for help.)
- 2 The children think of solutions. (It is not easy to admit making a mistake. Maybe Deborah had to learn to put up with Bernard's fit of anger and the mockery of her classmates.)
- 3 With the aid of the photographs, we impress on the children the focal points of the last three lessons:
  - The Lord is happy about every person who turns to him.
  - God's love and that of his Son holds true for the faithful ones as well as for the lost ones. The Lord is happy when a person betters him/herself.
  - Nobody should judge sinners. Everybody should first look at their own failings.
- 4 The children draw something, either from the story or from their own experience.