

Talking to the Lord



by Rev. Peter Buss, Jr.

Illustrated by Jacqueline Bostock

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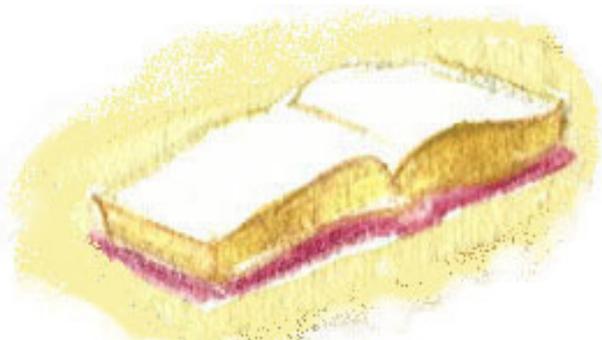


It was time for Ava and Adam’s family to go to church. Dad, Mom, Ava and Adam all sat down together.

The minister read from the Lord’s Word: “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.” (Matthew 7:7-8). He said, “ People can ask the Lord for anything. We can talk to Him any time, because He is always listening.”

Then the minister invited people to kneel around the altar to say a prayer. Ava went to the altar and knelt down, but Adam was little so he didn’t.

Ava wondered how to pray to the Lord. The minister said, “You can say anything to the Lord, because praying is just like talking to Him. You can tell Him when you are scared or happy, and thank Him for the things He has done for you. Ask Him to send His angels to watch over you too. Then you can end your prayer by saying the word, ‘Amen’.”





The minister asked them to think of the Lord as a Shepherd, who watches over His sheep. He said that the Lord could hear every person in the world at the same time, and they could say what they felt like to Him. Ava thought for a moment, and then she said to the Lord, “Lord, I want to talk to You all the time. I promise to try and remember to pray to You every day.”

On the way home Ava told her family about the promise she made to the Lord. Dad said that her prayers would make the Lord very happy. Mom asked Ava if she would like to help little Adam learn to pray to the Lord too.



Later that day while they were playing with blocks, Adam tripped Ava. Down she fell and hurt her hand on the hard floor. She started crying and yelled at Adam. She was so angry!

Dad picked her up. "Shh, honey. It was an accident," he said.

Ava cried, "No, he did it on purpose!"

Then Dad said, "I think maybe this is a good time to pray to the Lord."

"I don't want to talk to the Lord now! I'm too mad at Adam!" Ava yelled.

"I know," explained Dad. "But the Lord and His angels can come closer when you ask Him for help when you're sad or mad."

Ava wiped her eyes and decided to try. She thought to herself, "I don't like to feel angry. I'll talk to the Lord about it." So she took a big breath and asked the Lord, "Please make me feel better and send me lots of angels to help me. Amen."

Ava felt better. After a while she wasn't angry at all. She said "Sorry," to Adam and he was sorry for tripping her too.



The next day Ava forgot about praying. Suddenly she remembered! Dad told her that the Lord understands when people forget. But Ava wanted to make sure to remember to pray to the Lord. Mom suggested making a special little pouch to keep things in that remind her of the Lord. She could wear it around her neck to help her to remember to pray. Ava decided that was just what she would do. She knew that she could talk to the Lord whenever she wanted because He is always listening and her pouch would help her pray.

Adam heard all of the talk about prayers. He went to his family's worship center and saw the special bookmark that was kept in the Word.

"What do the letters spell?" Adam asked.

Mom read, "The Lord is my Shepherd."

"Why is the Lord my Shepherd?" Adam asked.

“Well, the Lord is always taking care of us, just like a shepherd takes care of his sheep.”

“Like You and Dad take care of us?”

“Yes,” said Mom. “When a sheep needs something, what does it do?”

“It says ‘ba-ahh!’”

“What do you do if you need something from the Lord?” asked Mom.

“I don’t know,” said Adam.

“I do! I do!” shouted Ava excitedly. “I talk to Him!”

“How do you do that?” Mom asked with a smile.

“I just talk to Him!”

“That’s right. Talking to the Lord is praying.”

“Like at church,” said Adam.

“Yes, and what can you pray for?” asked Mom.

“To be nice to my brother,” said Ava.

“Sure,” said Mom, “and you can ask for help, like when you feel upset. Adam, remember when you wanted to learn to tie your shoes and too hard and you felt mad? That’s a good time to ask the Lord for His help, to take away some of those angry feelings you had.

So Adam, do you think you could talk to the Lord?”





“I know how! Let me show you how to pray, Adam,” Ava said. They knelt down and folded their hands.

“Great! It’s good to pray to the Lord when we wake up and when we go to bed, and when we go to church, too,” said Mom. “And we can talk to the Lord any time, just like the sheep call to their shepherd when they need him.”

Adam listened to Ava talk to the Lord, then they both said “Amen!” and smiled. They were learning so much about praying!