

BAPTIST FEATURES

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CHILDREN'S PAGE
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WHY THE TREE GREW
By: Ellen Brown

Daddy rushed in the house, holding a little branch in his hand. He smiled happily, his eyes shining.

"Look what I have, everyone!" he said.

Laura and Nell, Ben and Mike rushed around him.

"What is it, Daddy?" they all asked.

"It's a tree--I mean it will be a tree--a sycamore tree. I'll plant it in the back yard. In a few years you can play under the shade!"

Laura and Nell, Ben and Mike followed Daddy to the back yard.

"Run bring me the hoe, Ben," said Daddy. Off Ben ran for the hoe.

"Run bring me some string, Mike," said Daddy. Off ran Mike for some string.

Laura and Nell, Ben and Mike watched while he dug a little hole and planted the sycamore tree. He put three stobs in the ground around it. Then he tied the string around the stobs.

"That will keep people from stepping on our tree," Daddy told his boys and girls. "Sycamore trees grow fast and it won't take so very long."

A few days later Ben went to look at the little tree. The tree looked dry and weak. "Poor little tree," thought Ben. "I believe the sun is too strong for it. What can I do for our tree?" He ran to the grocery store and asked the groceryman for a cardboard carton. He hurried back to the little tree. He put the cardboard carton over it. The strings held the carton just right to shade the weak little tree. He turned on the water hose and watered the tree. "Now it will grow. The water will help," thought Ben.

A few days later Mike noticed the little tree. "The tree needs water to give it life," thought Mike. He went in the house and filled a milk bottle with water. He poured it on the little tree. "I must take care of our tree," he thought.

One day when everyone else was at kindergarten or school Nell went to look at the tree. "I'll water the tree," thought Nell. She filled her teapot with water and poured it around the roots. After that ever so often she filled her teapot with water and poured it on the little tree.

Laura came home from school. It was very hot. It was time to help mother cook supper. She took out the trash for mother. She passed by the tree. It looked dry. "I must water the tree to give it life," thought Laura. She went in the kitchen and filled a sauce pan with water. She poured it on the little tree. After that she watched. When the tree was dry she gave it water.

The little tree grew and grew. It grew very fast. It was very healthy and green. It grew as fast, almost, as Johnson grass. First there were a few limbs, then there were more. At last, one day about a year later, it was as high as it could be--that is, to be such a young tree.

"Boys and girls," Daddy said, sticking out his chest proudly, "did you see how fast my tree is growing? It is because it has had water to give it life. Everytime it was dry I watered it."

Nell and Laura, Mike and Ben all chorused at once.

"So did I! So did I! Then everyone laughed.

"No wonder the tree grew so strong and healthy," Mike said. "It had plenty of life-giving water."

more

"That is like something in the Bible," Ben said--"it reminds me of something--"

"You're talking about Jesus giving the water of life," Laura said. "That's it, I'm sure."

"People stay strong and healthy when they have the water of life too," Mike piped up--"like a tree."

"And it's good to give it to everyone when you can!" Laura said thoughtfully. "It makes you happy and them too--just like we are about our tree!"

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LOST IN THE HILLS

By: Gladys Cleone Carpenter

Nancy, Mary, and Peter, the shepherd's children, wandered about in search of a lost lamb. Finally they found him among the briars. Peter took it in his arms. Then the three thought of home.

"Oh, we're lost!" Nancy cried.

"We'll get home all right," Peter comforted. But he didn't seem very sure which way to go.

Now the sky was getting dark; it was going to rain. There were no sheltering trees near by. But they were not far from a white church on the top of a hill.

"Run to the church!" Peter ordered.

The girls raced ahead and Peter followed as fast as he could with the lamb. They reached the porch just as the storm broke.

The wind swayed the outside double doors so the children could see through a crack into the church.

"Oh, look at that colored picture on the wall!" Nancy exclaimed.

It was the picture of Jesus with a lamb and under it were the words: THE LORD IS OUR SHEPHERD.

When the shower was over, the children went to the side of the church to look through a window at the picture.

"God takes care of us just like you're taking care of the lamb, doesn't he?" Nancy asked her brother.

Before Peter answered, he looked down into the valley. Why, now he saw where they were! He had been turned around because they were in a new place in the hills.

"Yes, God takes care of us," Peter answered as they started home.

"You knew we were lost," Mary accused Peter, "Weren't you afraid?"

"I was afraid I couldn't get you girls home," Peter confessed.

"But you kept saying we'd be all right."

"Sure," Peter agreed. "I've been told to 'Keep your fears to yourself, but share your courage with others.'"

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NOTE TO EDITOR: The material below is for the crossword puzzle.

THINGS YOU CAN DO FOR JESUS PUZZLE
By: Ellen Brown

Across

Down

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. To move from one place to another. | 1. To pass something on from yourself to others. |
| 2. Something you do with your eyes when you have books. | 3. A two letter word in the title of this puzzle. |
| 5. Calling on a friend. | 4. To ask someone to go with you to Sunday school. |
| 8. You do this with pencil and paper. | 6. To give part of what you have to someone else. |
| 9. This is a little word with a big meaning. Everything you do for Jesus is summed up in this big little word. It means giving aid. | 7. Something you do with your voice; it sounds nice. |

Answers across: 1 2 5 8 9
 go, read, visit, write, help.

Answers down: 1 3 4 6 7
 give, do, invite, share, sing.

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