Christian Science Sentinel
"What I say unto you I say unto all, *Watch*." —Jesus

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A Collection for Kids



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A Collection for Kids: July–December 2024

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE SENTINEL

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Everyone prayed!

Heidi Kleinsmith Salter



ANNA LITWILLER — STAFF

GRANDMA AND GRANDPA had a cute little dog named Susie. Everyone liked to play and cuddle with her.

One hot, sunny Sunday afternoon, my family—parents, grandparents, cousins, aunts, and uncles—were playing and visiting in the backyard. Suddenly we realized that we didn't know where Susie was. We looked all over the yard and called her name. We even asked neighbors if they had seen her. But we couldn't find her anywhere.

After we had searched for about twenty minutes, one of the kids looked under the porch. We heard a happy shout: "I found Susie!"

Susie had found a nice cool spot out of the heat and the sun and had curled up to take a nap. When she crawled out, she was perfectly fine—just a little dirty. We brushed her off, gave her a drink of water, and told her we were so glad she was safe.

Then we started talking about how we'd been praying while we were looking for Susie. In church and Christian Science Sunday School that morning we'd all heard about seven names for God: "Principle; Mind; Soul; Spirit; Life; Truth; Love" (Mary Baker Eddy, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures,* p. 587).

One person said, "I was thinking about how God is Love. So no matter where Susie was, she was loved and cared for."

Another person said, "I was thinking about God as Mind, and that we could listen to God for good ideas about where to look for Susie."

Someone else shared, "I was thinking about God being Truth, and that He would guide anyone who might find Susie to return her to us."

All of us, from kids to grownups, had prayed. And the many names for God helped us each pray in our own way to feel comforted—and to find Susie!

The names for God help us to know Him better. Then we can feel our Father-Mother God with us always, caring for us, giving us good ideas, and leading us in the right direction.•

Originally published in the July 1, 2024, issue of the *Christian Science Sentinel.*

Sharing happiness at camp

Maryann McKay

SISSY HAD COUNTED the days until she could go to camp. It was her first time, and she was so excited. And camp was so fun at first! The counselors and campers were friendly, and she had fun swimming and riding horses with the girls from her cabin. But after the first day, Sissy wasn't sure she wanted to stay. She was afraid she would miss her mom and dad and her dog, Teeny.

That night, Sissy was sleepy and ready for bed. But when the counselor turned out the light, she suddenly felt very alone. She didn't want to sleep in a bunk bed. She wanted to be at home in her own bed. She didn't like listening to the owl out in the woods. She wanted to hear her mom's voice. The more Sissy thought about being away from her parents, the sadder she felt.

Sissy began to cry. She decided to tell her counselor in the morning that she didn't want to stay at camp. Not one more day. And with that thought, she fell asleep.

The next morning, before Sissy could talk to her counselor, she met twins named Amy and Abby at the pool. They told her they were homesick. Sissy decided that she would stay at camp and be their friend so they would feel less alone.

At home, whenever Sissy went to a party or a school event, her mom always told her to "go to *give* a good time, not to *get* a good time." Sissy knew that meant to look for ways she could be kind and helpful to others.

In the Christian Science Sunday School that Sissy attended, her class had talked about people in the Bible who had helped others. She'd also memorized a Bible verse in which Christ Jesus says that we should "love your neighbor as you love yourself" (Matthew 19:19, International Children's Bible). She knew this meant that if she showed love, she would also feel love. Sissy knew that God, her divine Father-Mother, was loving her, and that God was loving the twins, too.

By spending her time with Amy and Abby, helping them learn to swim, and being like a big sister, Sissy stayed focused on loving her neighbor. They spent lots of time together, and soon they all stopped feeling homesick.

What happened to those nighttime tears? They were gone. Before falling asleep each night, Sissy was busy thanking God for giving her a happy, love-filled day. Then she would think of ways to keep the twins entertained so they would also feel better. They all had fun for the rest of camp.

Sissy learned a great lesson: When we are unselfish and do something to make others happy, we feel happy, too! •



CAROLINA VILCAPOMA — STAFF

Originally published in the July 22, 2024, issue of the *Christian Science Sentinel*.

Thinking about God? You're praying!

Blythe Evans

IN THE SCHOOL where I used to teach, there was a poster on the wall that said, "Reading is thinking." I agree. Looking at a bunch of words on a page, without actually thinking about their meaning, isn't really reading. There's no point in believing we've read something if we haven't really *thought* about it!

We could also say that praying is a way of thinking. Praying can be thinking about God—that God, Spirit, is all good and that He made us spiritual and gives only good to everyone. Praying can be thinking about how much God loves us and how He keeps us safe and well. Anytime we are thinking these thoughts, we're praying.

The Bible teaches us that God is Love. So if we're thinking about Love and expressing it through kindness, we're praying.

Another name for God is Truth. So whenever we are thinking about Truth and trying to be more honest and fair, we're praying. When we think and act this way, it's easy to see how we can follow what it says in the Bible: "Never stop praying" (I Thessalonians 5:17, New Living Translation).

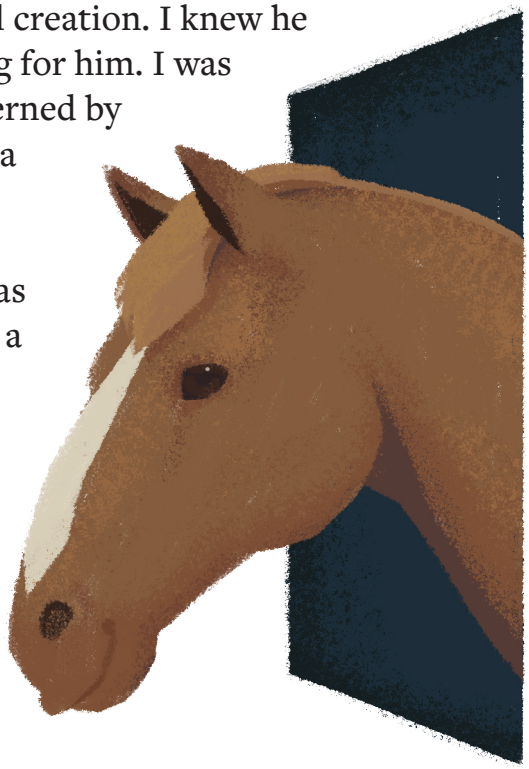
Christ Jesus is the best example of someone who never stopped praying. Everywhere he went, Jesus was thinking about God and knowing that everyone around him was God's beloved son or daughter. This ongoing prayer helped Jesus to heal many people he met, like the daughter of a woman who begged him for help. Jesus could tell that the woman had faith in God's healing power and that she was thinking about and trusting God. Jesus praised her faith, and her daughter was instantly healed (see Matthew 15:21–28).

Maybe you know what the author of *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, Mary Baker Eddy, says about thinking: "The time for thinkers has come" (p. vii). That's us! It's our time! As clear thinkers about God, we are clear pray-ers, and we can see the results of our prayers in our lives.

When I was in middle school, I had a horse I loved very much. One day, while in the paddock, he bucked and came down on a wooden fence post. His upper leg was badly hurt. Every time I thought about my horse, I made sure I was thinking in the right way. Instead of worrying—thinking scared thoughts—I thought of how he was God's spiritual creation. I knew he could never be hurt because God was always caring for him. I was sure that he was safe and well because he was governed by God, who is Truth and Love. All that thinking was a way of praying.

In a short time, the wound healed. There were no scars, and my horse could run freely again. I was so grateful. And you know what? Gratitude is also a form of prayer!

There are many ways to pray, and prayer is something we all keep learning more about. But isn't it nice to know that every time you think about God and the good that He has created, you're praying? And your prayers will bring amazing results that you may have never imagined! •



ANNA LITWILLER — STAFF

Originally published in the September 2, 2024, issue of the *Christian Science Sentinel*.

My head was healed

Colt

ONE DAY, MY dad took me to a basketball lesson. We got there early, and I wanted to be like Spider-Man and climb up high on a rock wall that is one of the outside walls of the gym. While I was climbing, a rock I was holding on to came loose from the wall. I fell, and the rock landed on my head. I was crying because it hurt, and I was bleeding.

My dad put me in the car and drove to the emergency room to get me cleaned up. As we were driving, Dad sang a hymn called "'Feed my Sheep'" that I've sung in Christian Science Sunday School before. Part of it goes like this:

I will listen for Thy voice,
Lest my footsteps stray;
I will follow and rejoice
All the rugged way.
(Mary Baker Eddy,
Poems, p. 14)



ANNA LITWILLER — STAFF

Dad also called my Sunday School teacher and gave the phone to me. My teacher is always nice to me. We talked about seeing with my "God goggles." This is something we say when I'm seeing only good, which is what God is. She told me I could think about it like filling up a cup with my favorite drink, hot chocolate. There is no room for anything bad in a cup full of goodness.

I felt better because I was only thinking about good things, which all come from God. One of those things was that I know my dad loves me and will do everything to protect me. The blood stopped, and the bump on my head was gone. I felt fine by the time we got to the emergency room. They checked me and said I could go home. I was even happy. I just wanted to go home and play. I was healed!

I learned that you should pray every day. If you pray, you will see how God helps you. God isn't talking to you with a person's voice, but His answers will just pop into your head. Dad calls it the "still small voice" (I Kings 19:12). It's there for you because God is always caring for you and loving you.•

Originally published in the August 5, 2024, issue of the *Christian Science Sentinel.*

I had a healing one night

Westley

I'D LIKE TO share a healing I had.

One night when I was in bed, I was coughing and having trouble sleeping.

I've learned from going to Christian Science Sunday School that God is good, so He couldn't make anything bad, like coughing or illness. He makes only good. I know that He governs us, cares for us, and guards us. So anything that is bad can't be real or part of us.

If a bad thought or a hurt tries to bother you, you can say, "No, I'm not letting you in." That just means we don't have to listen to those bad thoughts that make us feel unwell.

Soon I fell asleep because I felt better.

In the morning, I was perfectly fine, and I wasn't coughing. I'm so grateful that God made me and keeps me well.•



ANNA LITWILLER — STAFF

Originally published in the August 19, 2024, issue of the *Christian Science Sentinel*.

I listened only to thoughts from God

Annabelle

I WAS HAVING a great time at camp until my stomach started hurting.

I told my counselor that I didn't feel well. She took me to see the camp's Christian Science practitioner. A Christian Science practitioner is someone who prays with you to help you have a healing.

When we got there, the practitioner told me about an experience she'd had. Once, when she was washing dishes, she felt sick to her stomach. When she prayed, she felt instantly better.

Later, though, a thought said to her that maybe she should take a nap to make sure the upset feeling didn't come back. At first, she agreed. But she caught herself—that wasn't a thought from God! God is good, and we are His reflection. So we don't have to do anything extra to feel good or be good. We are already good.

The practitioner told me that she thought about what Jesus did when he felt tempted by thoughts that weren't from God. He rejected the thoughts and said that he would listen only to thoughts from God (see Luke 4:1–13).

The practitioner told me that later, at lunch time, another thought suggested that she shouldn't eat lunch or she might feel sick again. But she rejected that thought, too, because it wasn't from God. She ate lunch and was fine.

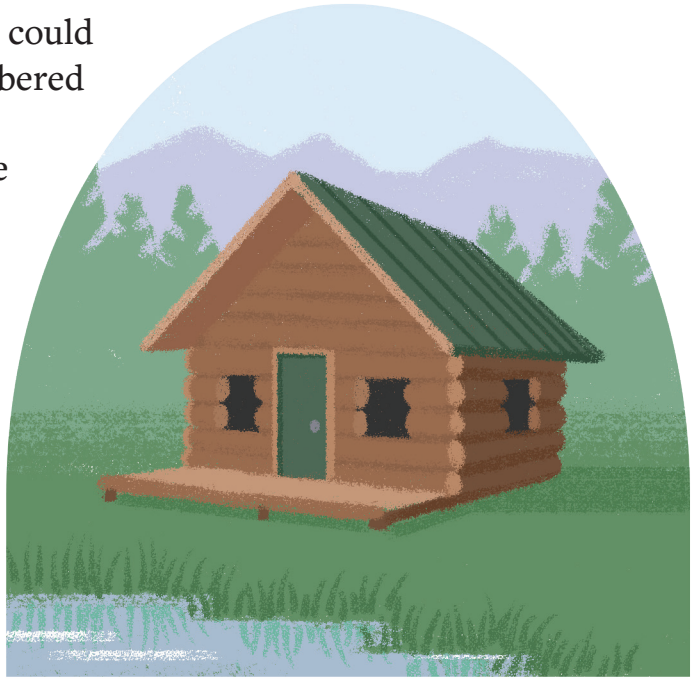
That evening, she was going to swim laps in the pool, but another thought tempted her, saying, "Don't swim. Save your energy." But she knew that she didn't have to listen to it, just like she hadn't listened to the other thoughts, because it wasn't from God. She knew that God is the source of all good, including our strength. So she went swimming, and she was fine.

After I talked with her, I went back to my cabin. While I was there, I thought about how I don't need to listen to or be tempted by any thoughts that aren't from God. I felt fine!

Later that day, I had a thought that I could have a stomachache again, but I remembered to listen only to God and His good thoughts. The stomachache didn't come back, and I enjoyed the rest of my time at camp.

If you feel tempted by a thought, think about whether it's good. If it's not, you don't have to listen to it. We can listen to what God is telling us instead.

I am so grateful for Christian Science, and for Christ Jesus' example, which showed me how to have a healing.•



ANNA LITWILLER — STAFF

Originally published in the September 16, 2024, issue of the *Christian Science Sentinel*.

God helped me when I met a bear

Joan Ware

HOW CLOSE IS God to you? He is right with you! And you are with God now and forever.

How much does God know about you? Everything! God also knows exactly what you need every second of every day.

How much does God love you? Infinitely! That means He loves you more than you can ever measure and that His love is always there for you to feel.

I learned for sure that all this is true on the day I met a bear. Yep! A bear.

I was on vacation, staying near a beautiful lake. One day, I went for a walk around the lake. A lot of people use the trail, but I was still being very careful because I had been told that there were bears in the area.

When I came around a curve on the trail in the woods, I looked up, and right there, very close to me, was the biggest bear I'd ever seen! He didn't see me because he was busy clawing for insects for breakfast. But I still thought, "Yikes! Way too close!"

Before I could even ask God for help, I heard God already speaking to me. I had a very calm, clear thought that said, "Back up."

After I backed up for a while, the message continued: "Now turn around and keep walking slowly and quietly. Check behind you once in a while and then keep going."

I listened with all my heart and did exactly as I was told.

When I was far enough away to be safe, I didn't get any more directions from God, so I went back to the lodge. The bear never even knew I was there, and I never once felt panicked.

I was so grateful for God. And I was grateful to know that thoughts from God are right there for us, even before we ask!

You'll probably never get that close to a bear. But it's still good to know that whatever happens during your day, you are never alone. God is always there giving you the right thoughts. And your job is to do exactly what God's good messages are telling you.

God promises in the Bible that He is always with us and will never leave us. That's a promise God keeps! •



ANNA LITWILLER — STAFF

Originally published in the October 28, 2024, issue of the *Christian Science Sentinel*.

Samuel listens to God

Gaby Horbaty-Bird

SAMUEL LOVES VISITING the Natural History Museum with his mom and little brother. He likes learning about different animals and insects.

One day, the museum was filled with people. It was hard to move around.

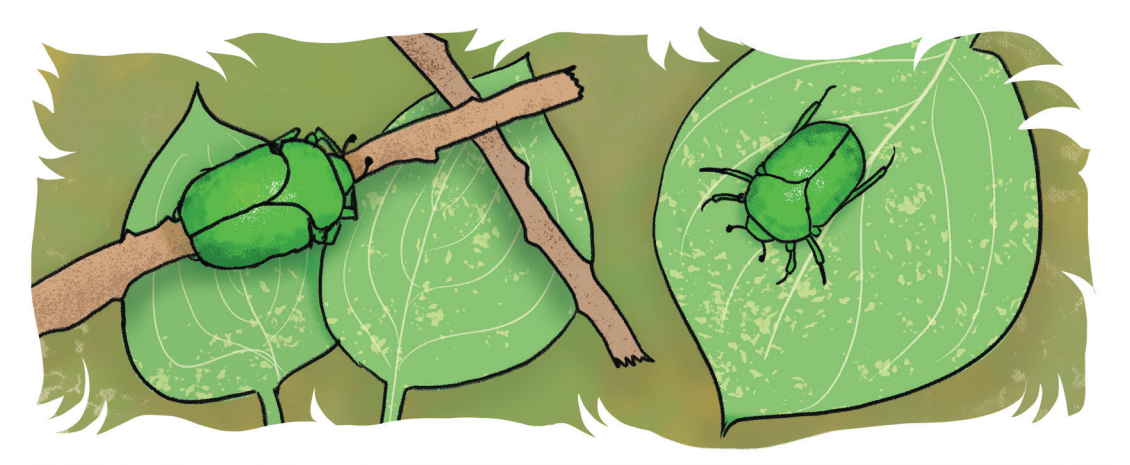
When some cool green beetles caught his attention, Samuel wanted to show them to his mom and brother. But he couldn't find his mom or brother anywhere. He thought they were just around the corner, so he ran to find them. But they had disappeared.

Samuel tried to be calm. Then he remembered what he had learned in Christian Science Sunday School: God fills all space, and there is no place where God is not. He thought that if God fills all space, then he wasn't alone. God was there with him. He also remembered that we can listen to God because God is always talking to us and helping us.

Samuel listened to God while he continued looking for his mom and brother. Samuel knew his mom was also looking for him and praying for him.

Samuel went back to the section where he had last seen his mom and little brother, and that's when he heard their voices. He had a thought that he should run toward their voices, and that's exactly how he found them. He gave them each a big hug, and his mom and brother each gave him a big hug, too.

Samuel learned that day that you can always listen to God and that God will always help you! •



AARON CRANFORD — STAFF

Originally published in the November 11, 2024, issue of the *Christian Science Sentinel*.

We're grateful for you!

Your youth editors



ANNA LITWILLER — STAFF

HEY KIDS!

This time of year gets us thinking about gratitude. You know what we're really thankful for? We're grateful for *you*.

And we aren't the only ones. We know that kids all over the world read your healings. They think about the ideas you've shared, and they pray with them when they need help. So there's what is called a ripple effect from what you write. It starts with you, but it doesn't end with you!

Lots of grownups who read this magazine are grateful for you and your healings, too. They write us letters and emails that start with words like, "I'm not a kid anymore but . . ." And then they tell us how much your healings have helped them. They tell us that the way you trust God helps them learn how to trust God better. We feel that way, too! We also love how you remind us that since God could never be sick or hurt, neither could we as God's children.

So sometimes we also learn more about how to pray when we read your testimonies. And sometimes we have healings of our own. Wow! Did you know your healings could do that? That's because the ideas you share come from God, so they have all of God's power behind them. And that same power that healed you has healed us, too. Another reason to be grateful!

Maybe you've never shared one of your healings before. That's OK! We'd still love to hear from you. No healing is too small. If you've prayed about something by turning to God and trusting Him or listening for His voice, and then you've felt peace, found a solution to a problem, felt better when you were sick, forgiven a friend, or gotten any other answer to your prayers, then you have a healing to share.

What should you do next? You can ask your parents, grandparents, or Christian Science Sunday School teacher to help you write it up. Then you can have one of them help you send it to us at jsh.christianscience.com/submit.

We're grateful for each one of you. And we're grateful to you in advance for sharing your healings with us soon. We'll be watching for them!

Lots of love,

Jenny and Julia

Originally published in the November 25, 2024, issue of the *Christian Science Sentinel*.

I always have God to turn to

Noelle

ONE DAY AT middle school, I was in class, and I excused myself to go to the restroom.

While I was there, my nose started bleeding. I tried everything I could think of to stop it, but nothing was helping.

Then I remembered I always have God to turn to. In Christian Science Sunday School, I've learned that God is an ever-present help. This means that He is always with us and we can depend on Him in any situation. As soon as I reached out to God and asked for His help, the bleeding stopped.

I am so grateful to know how easy it is to turn to God and that He is always right there.

Originally published in the October 14, 2024, issue of the *Christian Science Sentinel*.

Eli catches angels

Molly Richardson Jerry

ELI IS THREE years old. He loves to learn about God.

One day in Christian Science Sunday School, Eli's teacher talked about God's thoughts. Another word for God's thoughts is *angels*. God's angels are good thoughts that come to all of us all the time. They help us if we are feeling sick or scared. They help us feel God's peace and love.

Eli's Sunday School class learned a song called "You can catch angels." It's about how God's thoughts are "headed straight to you" every minute of every day.

At dinner that night, Eli's family made a list of angels. Some of the angels they thought of were how to be kind, how to feel happier, how to be helpful, and reminders that God made us good.



ANNA LITWILLER — STAFF

That night, as Eli's dad tucked him into bed, Eli started to cry. Eli told his dad that he didn't want to be alone in his room.

Eli's dad thought of what they'd talked about at dinner. He asked Eli, "Can you catch angels right now?"

Eli stopped crying. He told his dad that yes, he could catch angels! Soon after Eli started listening for God's thoughts, he fell asleep.

After that, Eli often found it easier to go to bed. And one morning, he and his mom also caught comforting angels of love when Eli felt sad to say goodbye to his mom before preschool.

Now Eli knows he can catch angels, anytime, anywhere. And so can you!•

Originally published in the September 30, 2024, issue of the *Christian Science Sentinel*.

Jumping for joy

Oliver

ONE WINTER, I was having fun jumping into a pile of snow.

But one time when I jumped, my knee hit a big rock. My knee really hurt, and I called for help.

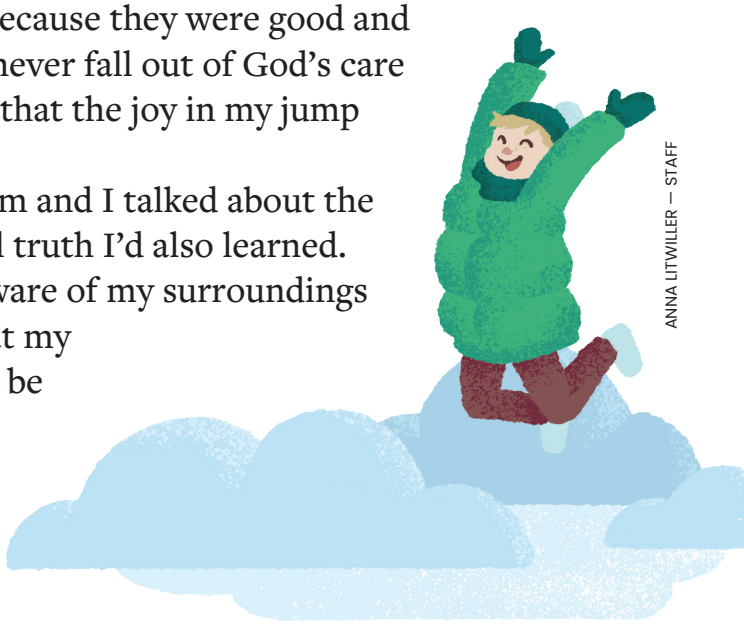
Right away, my mom was by my side sharing thoughts from God with me. I knew they were thoughts from God because they were good and helped me be calm. She told me that I can never fall out of God's care because God is everywhere. We both knew that the joy in my jump came from God, so it couldn't go away.

When we went inside the house, my mom and I talked about the lesson I'd learned that day and the spiritual truth I'd also learned.

The lesson was that I should be more aware of my surroundings before jumping. The spiritual truth was that my joy could never turn into something bad or be taken away.

As I thought more about God, the hurt in my knee went away.

I am grateful for this healing and have jumped for joy many times since!•



ANNA LITWILLER — STAFF

Originally published in the December 9, 2024, issue of the *Christian Science Sentinel*.

Celebrating Christmas . . . before Christmas!

Sentinel staff

IT'S ALMOST CHRISTMAS! You might have cookies to bake or presents to wrap. But then what? How are you going to wait all those days until Christmas morning finally arrives?

Here's a Christmas activity you can do with your brother or sister, or with a friend, parent, or grandparent. This is what you'll need:

- the Bible
- two sheets of paper
- markers and a pen or pencil
- a calendar to follow
- a ruler (optional)

This is what you'll do: Find the Christmas story in the Bible. Part of the story is told in Matthew (1:18—2:23) and another part in Luke (1:26—2:40). As you read the story, use the first sheet of paper to write down some of the people and even animals that are part of the story. Leave space next to each one. As you list characters such as wise men, shepherds, the baby Jesus, Joseph, Mary, and even the donkey Mary rode, think about some of the qualities each of those people or animals expressed. Write them down next to their names.

Your list might look something like this:

- Mary: being a good listener, trusting, loving
- Wise men: brave, persistent, insightful, obedient
- Donkey: steadfast, supportive

Write down as many qualities as you can think of, because you'll need those later.

Once you have your list, get your second piece of paper ready: Look at the calendar. Count how many days there are between now and Christmas (including today). For example, if you're reading this on December 14, there are 12 days between now and Christmas Day.

Now draw the right number of boxes (one box for each day) on the paper. Don't make them too small! They need to be big enough so that you can

write or draw inside them. (Two inches by two inches or five centimeters by five centimeters is a good size if you want to measure.)

In the corner of each box, write a little number to show what day it stands for. So, for December 14 you would write a small 14 in the corner of the first box. Put numbers in all the boxes up through 25. Now you're ready to go!

For each day between now and Christmas, pick a person or animal from your list. Draw a picture of it or write its name in that day's box on your calendar. Then write one of that character's qualities that you want to focus on. So you might write: Shepherd. Watchful.

That's your Christmas story role for the day! All that day, you can think about your quality. Try to put it into practice with your friends, at school, at home, or anywhere else you go. Maybe being watchful could mean watching out for your little brother or sister and making sure they're included. Being watchful could also mean noticing how you might help your mom or dad get dinner ready. You'll get lots of opportunities because God gives us good ideas about how we can express His qualities.

We won't ever really know what it felt like to be those shepherds standing on a hillside hearing the angels sing "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." But every day between now and December 25, you can be part of today's story of peace, kindness, and love in a way that will make this Christmas season a little more joyful for everyone. Happy celebrating! •



ANNA LITWILLER — STAFF

Originally published in the December 16 & 23, 2024, issue of the *Christian Science Sentinel*.

Write your own testimony here!

Submit it now by sending it in to kids@csps.com.

A Collection for Kids:

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