

IS HEAVEN IN THE YELLOW PAGES?

Mommy went to heaven, but I need her here today, my tummy hurts and I fell down, I need her right away. Operator can you tell me how to find her in this book? Is heaven in the yellow part, I don't know where to look. I think my daddy needs her too, cause at night I hear him cry. I hear him call her name sometimes, but I really don't know why.

Maybe if I call her, she will hurry home to me. Is heaven very far away? Is it across the sea? She's been gone a long, long time. She needs to come home now! I really need to reach her, but I don't know how. Help me find the number please! Is it listed under "Heaven"? I can't read these big, big words, I'm only seven.

I'm sorry, operator, I didn't mean to make you cry. Is your tummy hurting too, or is there something in your eye? If I call my church maybe they will know. Mommy said when we need help that's where we should go. I found the number to my church. It was tacked up on the wall, so thank you operator; I guess I'll give them a call.

(Author Unknown)

When I read the article above I thought, "Oh Heavenly Father, how sensitive we must be to ALL children, not just our own. The world can be so cruel and they daily need Your touch; Your love. You must become their Comforter, Helper and Guide. They need to be taught how to listen to Your Holy Spirit. Use us, Father, as vehicles to express Your loving ways and heart."

This story certainly tugs at the heart strings. It deeply stirs the emotions as for most of us, children hold a special place in our hearts. Jesus clearly shows His heart for children as seen in Mark 9:36-37 which says, Then he put a little child among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, [his disciples] "Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me, welcomes my Father who sent me."

I love their childlike innocence, and their ability to turn from sad to happy in the blink of an eye. Even in the midst of scolding them, their little faces radiate love; it shines forth in many ways to melt the hardest heart.

Forgiveness is often difficult for adults to master; yet children are the epitome of forgiveness. They give it effortlessly. The words "Hold a grudge" is not in their vocabulary for even when punished, they quickly forget, run into your arms, and hold you tight— their kisses freely given.

Children can teach us insights from the Father's heart, if we but listen and observe. I have watched my 17 month old great granddaughter, Mira, sitting on the floor suddenly burst out laughing for no apparent (to me) reason. Her laughter comes from deep within and is infectious. Pure joy erupts and I wonder what is going on in that precious little mind. I believe that children have a special connection with the spiritual realm—with their heavenly Father more so than adults do. We would probably be

“blown away” if we truly knew the depth of the kinship of a child with God. I marvel at the Father’s heart of love and trust that He places in these little ones.

At times as I watch Mira play, it seems like she has a playmate that is invisible to all eyes but hers. Do I believe in God’s angels? A most emphatic and resounding YES! Children and animals have the most incredible built in radar system that can minister to your moods; it is a natural part of them. And to me, one of the greatest joys of all—a little hand softly touches you and love floods your heart as you hear, that little voice sweetly saying, “I love you!” Children are God’s gift to mankind and as such we are mandated to protect, love and care for them.

Words can be magical to little hearts as they listen to you read. You bring adventure into their lives, joy to their hearts and hope to their spirits as you share a story (no matter the age). I pray that you will never be too busy to take time out of your schedule when a child brings a book to you and lifts their little arms to be settled in your lap. For you know, they don’t stay there long, but their little minds, hearts and spirits are open to receive; ready to learn something new for the day. Don’t shut the door that God has opened.

Sometimes Mira plops a book in my lap and stays all of a few seconds to hear a word here and see a picture there and then she is off to new adventures, but soon she is back—again and again. My heart soars when I say a word and she runs to find her story book, finds the right page and excitedly points to the picture. Then out of nowhere in the midst of her playing, story book words are spoken. Words have the power to draw children into the presence of God and eventually into their destiny.

Women seem to be more in tune to a child’s need as God made them with strong emotional tendencies, and men are the more logical beings, but I have seen men hear a child cry and pick up that it is his child crying before the mother does. We were at church one night when a newborn started crying. I quickly looked around to see which mother would get up and go to the nursery when a man got to his feet and headed out the door. I was impressed! Many times when we would be on an outing, in church or at an event; one of our children would be crying, and my husband, Joe, would say, “Katie, that’s ours!” He was always right!

The Holy Spirit spoke to my heart on the importance of “walking the talk” before His little ones. May we as God’s Church be ready to touch the lives of children and youth in whatever way that we can. When God opens a door to minister to these small ones, the youth or young people, let’s quickly go through the door and be used of Him as vehicles of blessing in their lives.

Let’s purpose in our hearts to share Jesus—His love, power and victories in every way that we can. Let’s praise Him at all times; be content in all things, and daily seek His face, so that those little eyes with their questions to be answered will see us as their guide—their bright examples. Let them see You, Jesus, in our daily lives. It is truly an awesome responsibility, for one day, we will stand before God and give an account of how we treated His little ones.

Proverbs 15:13 (NLT) says, A glad heart makes a happy face; a broken heart crushes the spirit

IT DOESN'T MATTER THE AGE. Children are meant to be nurtured, lovingly taught and cared for. They are precious to the Father's heart. Church, look around, there is always an open door and a place for you to fit in and be used in your gifting to touch a young life.

Matthew 19:13-15 reads, Some children were brought to Jesus so he could lay his hands on them and pray for them. The disciples told them not to bother him. But Jesus said, "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." And he put his hands on their heads and blessed them before he left.