



A Lesson from the Littles

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Let me introduce you to Nils.

Nils is one of the four year-olds in a class I tutor weekly at our homeschool co-op. A segment of our morning includes time for the students to give a presentation. As you can imagine, I hear messages on many entertaining topics ranging from gymnastics to princess dresses to camping trips to favorite Lego creations.

Earlier this semester, during Nils' turn to present, he approached the front of the class as usual. He began with the typical introduction.

"Hi, my name is Nils, and today I'm going to tell you about..."

He stopped abruptly, realizing he'd forgotten what to say.

"HMMMMM," he contemplated. He tilted his head, squinted his eyes, looked off to the distance, and rubbed his chin with his hand.

"What was I going to say?" he wondered aloud.

"HMMMMM," he repeated, sustaining his physical position with grandiose maturity.

His gaze then moved to his father who was standing in the back of the room. With a glint in his eye, Nils inquired,

"Daddyyyy, what was I going to say?"

His father slowly and calmly shook his head, allowing his son space to remember on his own.

Unphased, Nils smiled, resumed his pensive position and again expressed with great thought, "*Hmmmmm*." His brows were furrowed, but his countenance displayed intrigue.

A moment passed, and his eyes returned to his father.

"Daddyyyy? What was that word again?"

His father kindly shook his head, and Nils pondered once more on his own.

Another moment passed, and he probed again for a hint.

His dad then gave Nils the word he needed, and our **little** student was fully equipped to **victoriously** tell us all about his upcoming travels over Christmas break.

Fast forward a few days.

I was somewhere in my home, looking for something I'd misplaced.

Before I realized what I was doing, I found myself assuming Nils' pondering position. I tilted my head, rubbed my chin, and expressed a thoughtful "*Hmmmmm*."

Then this spilled out of my mouth:

"Daddyyyy, where did I put that?"

Yes, inspired by Nils, I simply asked Father God to help me. And he did. **Success!**

I chuckled to myself as the picture of Nils' presentation played in my mind alongside my own experience. Then I realized how **huge** this was.

What a wonderful **lesson** from one of my **littles**:

We often have to remind ourselves that nothing is too **large** for God to handle, but we can also lose sight of the fact that nothing is too **tiny**, either.

Did you lose or misplace something? Ask your Father.

Are you unsure about a **simple** decision? Ask Father God.

Were you wondering about a seemingly **small** situation? Ask Daddy.

Nothing is too **small** for the Lord. He cares about it all.

Just pause, say "*Hmmmmm*," and ask the Heavenly Father for help.

I love how Nils approached his father without fear, shame, or embarrassment. I was also impacted by how his dad was not impatient, angry, or frustrated by his son's request. In addition, his father's postponed response was intentional, with his son's best in mind.

Likewise, if God's response to us is delayed, I believe He would want us to remember that He is a loving and kind Father who wants us to grow in character and godliness. He often gives us extra space to discern His will, which means a stretch in patience, but that always ends well for us if we cooperate with Him.

*"But let patience have its perfect work,
that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.
If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God,
who gives to all liberally and without reproach,
and it will be given to him."
James 1:4-5*

ENCOURAGEMENT

Do you know what the name Nils means?

It means, "people of **victory**."

Could this precious story-- and child-- be a reminder to us that we, as children of God the Father, are people of **victory**?

We are **triumphant** because we have put our faith and trust in Jesus, the One who proclaimed, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (John 14:6)

You can't be reconciled back into relationship with the Heavenly Father unless you've placed your trust and faith in Jesus Christ. And when you surrender to Jesus, you are adopted into the family of God. We then become sons and daughters of the Most High, and we are given **victory** over sin and death.

*"But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son,
born of a woman, born under the law,
to redeem those who were under the law,
that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons,
God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts,
crying out, "Abba, Father!"*

*Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son,
and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ. Galatians 4:4-7*

(note: the Greek word for Abba indicates both intimacy and an obedient heart)

God the Father sent His Son Jesus into this world as a **little** baby.
That **tiny** newborn-- God in human flesh-- grew up to accomplish a **gigantic** task:
to give His life for ours, **saving** us from sin and death.

If we surrender in obedience to Jesus as our way, truth and life,
then He brings us into intimate relationship with our Father.
We can now cry out, "*Abba, Father!*" asking Him for help with anything--
whether **big** or **small**.

What **victorious** news this Christmas!

Let us not **lessen** this **lesson** from the **littles**.

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BONUS: more littles and a great gift idea

Want more stories about **littles** God has used in my life?
Enjoy meeting Elise and Zach in the links below.

Also, are you looking for a quality gift for the **littles** in your life? My mom is an incredible artist and is the author of several children's books. You can peruse her work and order the books at her website **here**. Her stories follow a group of stuffed animals who learn life lessons based on biblical truths. (Local orders can arrange for pick-up.) They are a must-have!

Meet Elise: a writing about "The Best Ever"

Meet Zach: a writing about "Forward Thanking"