

# Visiting the Lord's House

A Story about Going to Church



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Eliza and Benjamin were excited! Their family was going to visit Aunt Rachel for a whole week! They loved to stay with Aunt Rachel because she lived in the country.



When they reached her farm, Aunt Rachel met them with big hugs and said, “Guess what? I made your favorite dinner—macaroni and cheese!”

“Yea!” the children cheered.

By the time they had finished eating, it was already dark.

Mama said, “Tomorrow we get to go to Aunt Rachel’s church, so we need to bathe and get to sleep now!”



“Wow! It looks like Aunt Rachel bought some bubblebath just for you!” Mama said as she helped them pull off their clothes, and they jumped into the bathtub.

“Why do we have to have a bath tonight?” asked Benjamin.

“I know, I know! The Lord loves us better when we smell good and get all clean for Him,” said Eliza.

“The Lord always loves you. But it’s nice to show Him how much we love Him by getting clean and dressing nicely for church,” added Mama.

After the baths were over, Eliza and Benjamin got ready for bed. Benjamin fell asleep but Eliza stayed awake for a little while, thinking about going to church the next day.

The sunlight shining through the windows woke up Benjamin and Eliza the next morning.

“Pancakes!” shouted Eliza.

“I love pancakes!” said Benjamin.

They all sat down for breakfast. Then they joined hands and sang,



“Oh, the Lord is good to me,  
And so I thank the Lord  
For giving me the things I need,  
The sun and the rain and the apple seed.  
The Lord is good to me!”

Daddy said, “Thank you, Lord, for bringing us together to share this special Sunday, a day to think about You and rejoice with our family.”

Then they ate their breakfast and went to dress for church.

“Oh no! I forgot to pack my pretty church shoes!” Eliza started to cry. She sank to the floor and sobbed.

Daddy said, “Come on sweetheart. I know that you’re sad, but we need to get ready to go. You can wear your sneakers. They have pretty pink laces and they will match your pink dress.”

Eliza cried, “But the Lord won’t like it if I wear my old sneakers!”

“The Lord likes it when we do the best we can, Eliza,” Daddy said gently. “He understands that we forget things sometimes.”

Daddy picked up Eliza’s sneakers and then he picked up Eliza and carried them all out to the car. “We need to go now, honey,” he said as he wiped her cheek.

By the time they got to the church, Eliza had calmed down.

“Can you think about the Lord now?” Mama asked Eliza.

“Yes,” Eliza smiled.

The minister greeted them at the door of the church. “How are you folks? And look at you two kids, you’re so big!” The minister, Mr. Walker, smiled down at Eliza and Benjamin, and gave them each a hug.



Old Mrs. Brown was already playing church songs on the piano, as they walked in. Eliza loved the church. It had tall windows with panes of colored glass, and a big stone altar. On top of the altar was the Word, wrapped in a beautiful golden cover. The altar shone with the light of seven big white candles.

Near the door was a round wooden bowl for the money offering. Eliza and Benjamin each put in a coin that they had earned, and Daddy put in a bill from him and Mama.

The family sat down together near the big window overlooking the apple trees outside. Eliza squinted her eyes and looked at the candles. She loved the way the flames looked as if they were turning into stars.

Mrs. Brown started playing, and they all stood up. Eliza loved this song, and she knew the words. It made her think about the Lord and it made her happy. As they sang, Mr. Walker came in. He was dressed now in a long white robe with a blue stole.



Benjamin saw the minister and whispered in Mama's ear, "Look, Mama, there is the Lord!"

Eliza smiled because she knew it was really Mr. Walker. Everybody finished singing and then stood very quietly.

Then the minister opened the Word and said, "Let us pray!"

They all knelt down and said the Lord's prayer together:



"Our Father, who art in the heavens, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven so upon the earth. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we also forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen."

Then they sat and listened to the minister reading from the Lord's Word.

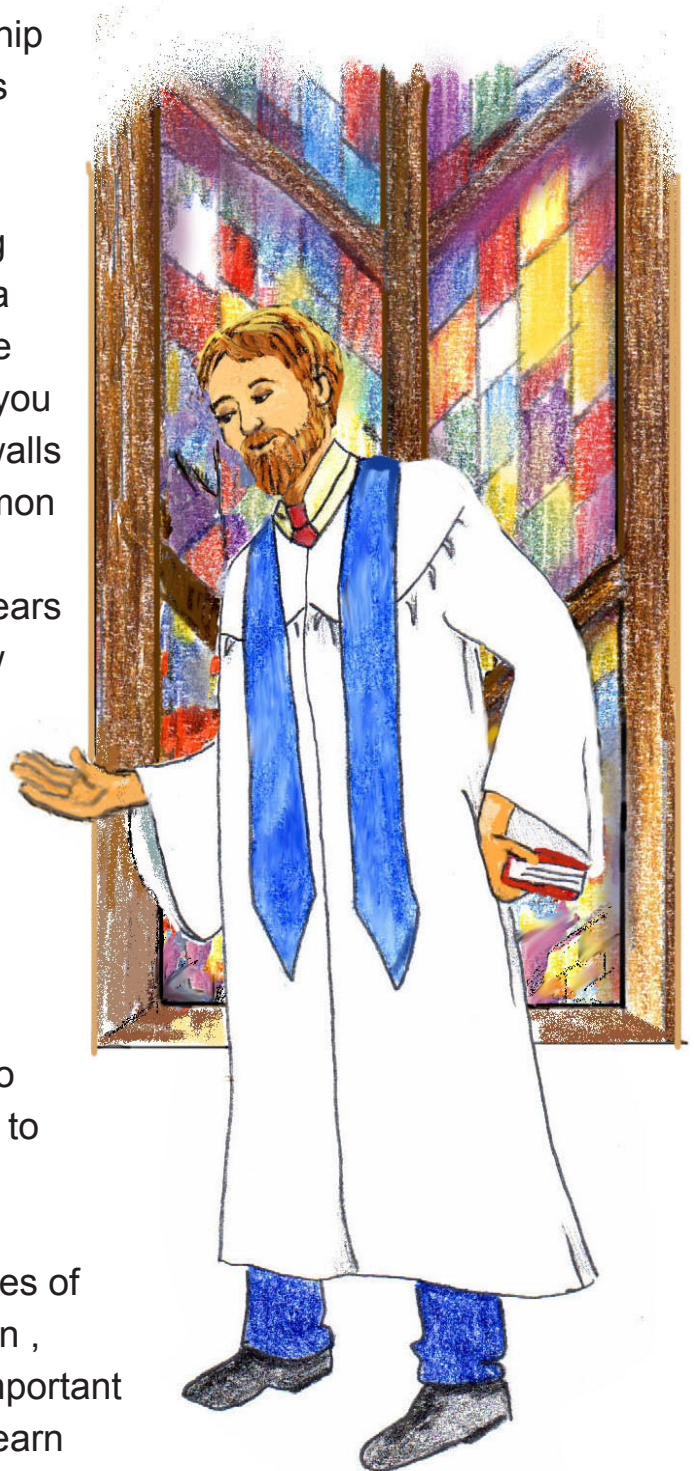
"Now the house which King Solomon built for the Lord..." (I Kings 6).

He went on to read about the beautiful golden temple that King Solomon built in Jerusalem so that people could worship the Lord. And he finished, "So he was seven years in building it."

Then Mr. Walker began by asking some questions. "Did you know that a temple is a very fancy church? Where do you go to church?" he asked. "Do you go to church in a great temple, with walls of gold? Probably not, but King Solomon wanted to make the Lord a beautiful place of worship. It took him seven years to make it. This was one way to show the Lord he loved Him.

"Where do you have worship? People worship in many different places. The Lord said, 'For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them' (Matthew 18:20). People who love the Lord want to gather together to worship Him.

"There can be lots of different types of churches. Some are fancy, some plain, some big and some small. What is important is that people can come together to learn more about the Lord by opening and listening to His Word, and they can share their happiness about the Lord by singing and praising Him.





“Our church is a special place because it is the Lord’s house. We love it because we love the Lord.”

Mr. Walker said, “Amen.”

Then Eliza and Benjamin went with the other children to the Sunday School room. The Sunday School teacher showed them a special project they would do to make pictures for their own Word. “Do you remember what Mr. Walker said?” she asked. “An important part of church is opening the Word of the Lord. Opening His Word shows that we want to learn what the Lord tells us.”

The teacher handed the children pictures to color. “These will go into the special Word that we are making today. They are stories from the Lord’s Word.

When they had finished coloring, they added glitter and stickers to some of the pictures. Then they were given their own soft red cloth Word covers. The teacher reminded them to keep the Word in a special place and to think about the Lord.





When Sunday School was over, the children went outside to play under the apple trees. When their parents joined them, Eliza and Benjamin were excited to show them their special Words. Then they hopped into the car to go back to Aunt Rachel's house.

"Daddy said, "We'll go to church again next week before we head home." Eliza could hardly wait! But she had her own special Word she had made in Sunday School to use for worship until then.

It was going to be a wonderful week!