



## Lost in the Mountains

Many years ago, Christine lived with her family up in the mountains. One afternoon Mother sent Christine to the woods to pick berries. After filling her bucket half full, she noticed up ahead some bigger berries. She walked further and further from home.

Finally, the bucket was full. Christine lifted the bucket and started home. She decided to go a different way, thinking it would be shorter. She came to the bottom of a hill, then to a field. It was getting dark quickly. The birds were twittering sleepily to each other. Sometimes, Christine would hear the hoot of an owl. She stopped and listened. Surely she must be close to home. When Christine decided to call, only the owl answered back. She shivered when she thought about being lost in the dark woods with bears and wildcats.

Then Christine saw the stars just coming out. "God can keep me safe here just like at home. He is here, because the stars are the same. I'll just curl up by this big stone until morning. Then I'll see how to get home," she thought. Kneeling down by the stone, she prayed, "Dear Jesus, bless my family and help me to find them." She felt safe now. Just as she lay down, there was the sound of a barking dog. "It's coming this way!" she said to herself, climbing up on the rock and shouting as loudly as she could. The barks came closer and closer. There was Shep, her neighbor's dog! "Take me home, Shep," she begged. Shep seemed to understand, as he ran off with Christine stumbling along behind. When they reached the road, Christine knew where she was. Soon she was safely at home where her mother was waiting.

"God is everywhere and answers prayer right away, doesn't He, Mommy?" whispered Christine, when Mother tucked her in bed. "Yes, dear, God even sees the little sparrows and cares for them. If we are doing right, we never need to be afraid," Mother answered, as she kissed her tired little girl good night. ❖