

Jesus Loves Me

Scripture Allusions and Story for the Favorite Song, “Jesus Loves Me”

Scriptures:

“Taking a child, He set him before them, and taking him in His arms, He said to them, ‘Whoever receives one child like this in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me does not receive Me, but Him who sent Me.’ ” (Mark 9:36-37)

“And they were bringing children to Him so that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw this, He was indignant and said to them, ‘Permit the children to come to Me; do not hinder them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it at all.’ And He took them in His arms and began blessing them, laying His hands on them.” (Mark 10:13-16)

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him." (John 3:16-17)

Background:

Jesus Loves Me is loved by children and adults alike. The original version, stanza 1, was written by **Anna B. Warner** (1820-1915) in 1860 (Ref. 3). Anna and her sister, Susan Warner, wrote poems and stories for publication. They lived on the Hudson river right across from the Military Academy at West Point, New York (Ref. 4). The lyrics first appeared as a poem in a novel called *Say and Seal*, written by Anna’s sister, Susan (Ref. 4). In the novel, the words of “Jesus Loves Me” were spoken as a comforting poem to a dying child (Ref. 5).

William B. Bradbury (1816-1868) composed the tune for "Jesus Loves Me" in 1862. Along with his tune, Bradbury added his own chorus, "Yes, Jesus loves me, Yes, Jesus loves me..." After publication, “Jesus Loves Me” became one of the most popular Christian hymns in churches around the world (Ref. 5).

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David Rutherford McGuire wrote stanzas two and three (Ref. 6). Anna B. Warner also wrote stanzas four and five (Ref. 7).

In 1943, in the Solomon Islands, John F. Kennedy's PT-109 was rammed and sunk. Islanders Biuku Gasa and Eroni Kumana who found Kennedy and the survivors remember that when they rode on PT boats to retrieve the survivors, the Marines sang this song with the natives, who learned it from missionaries (Ref. 5).

Apply:

Today, perhaps you need to know in a special way that Jesus loves you. Perhaps today you need to feel his loving welcome. Perhaps you need his presence with you today through a difficult time. How will you respond to Jesus' invitation to come to him as a child, to accept his loving embrace?

Jesus invites you into his arms, and he wants to bless you. "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out." (John 6:37)

Pray:

Lord, I come to you, trusting not in my merit, but trusting in your love for me. Please forgive my sins. Thank you for accepting me. Thank you for blessing me. Thank you for your presence to guide me and to bring me safely into your arms.

Music:

The Timeless Truths website provided the attached lyrics and score for "Jesus Loves Me" (Ref. 8).

References:

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2. <http://www.biblestudytools.com/>
3. Robert K. Brown and Mark R. Norton, *The One Year Book of Hymns*, Tyndale House Publishers, 1995
4. Robert J. Morgan, *Then Sings My Soul Special Edition*, Thomas Nelson, 2010
5. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jesus_Loves_Me
6. *The United Methodist Hymnal*, The United Methodist Publishing House, 1989
7. <http://www.allaboutgod.com/jesus-loves-me.htm>
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Mr. Whitney V. Myers is a church music composer and arranger, as well as a devotion and Bible Study writer. Mr. Myers has published over 30 choral arrangements, hymns, and songs on the www.whitneytunes.com website. Mr. Myers is a graduate of Gettysburg College (B.A.), George Washington University (M.S.), and the University of Maryland (MBA, with honors).

Lyrics for “Jesus Loves Me”

Verse 1:

**Jesus loves me! This I know,
For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong;
They are weak, but He is strong.**

Refrain:

**Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.**

Verse 2:

**Jesus loves me! This I know,
As He loved so long ago,
Taking children on His knee,
Saying, “Let them come to Me.”**

Verse 3:

**Jesus loves me still today,
Walking with me on my way,
Wanting as a friend to give
Light and love to all who live.**

Verse 4:

**Jesus loves me! He who died
Heaven’s gate to open wide;
He will wash away my sin,
Let His little child come in.**

Verse 5:

**Jesus loves me! He will stay
Close beside me all the way;
Thou hast bled and died for me,
I will henceforth live for Thee.**

Jesus Loves Me

...That ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ. Eph. 3:17-19

1. Je - sus loves me! This I know, For the Bi - ble tells me so;
2. Je - sus loves me! This I know, As He loved so long a - go,
3. Je - sus loves me! still to - day, Walk - ing with me on my way,
4. Je - sus loves me! He who died Heav - en's gate to o - pen wide;
5. Je - sus loves me! He will stay Close be - side me all the way;

Lit - tle ones to Him be - long; They are weak, but He is strong.
Tak - ing chil - dren on His knee, Say - ing, "Let them come to Me."
Want - ing as a friend to give Light and love to all who live.
He will wash a - way my sin, Let His lit - tle child come in.
Thou hast bled and died for me, I will hence - forth live for Thee.

Refrain

Yes, Je - sus loves me! Yes, Je - sus loves me!

Yes, Je - sus loves me! The Bi - ble tells me so.