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Kids and divorce By Elise L. Moore

When I was little my mom and dad were not happy together. One day Mom told my brother and me that she was leaving Dad and said we could go with her. We wanted to be with her, so we went with Mom, and Dad lived in another state.

I felt very sad a lot of the time. But I didn't want anyone to know. So, I would climb a tree in the yard of the house where we were living. It was quiet in the tree. I would climb the tree so that I could be alone and think and pray.

In the Christian Science Sunday School, I learned how to pray. I learned that prayer is not asking God to fix things, like just asking God to make Mom and Dad happy together. That is more like wishful thinking than praying. Prayer is not wishing. Prayer is listening to God.

But sometimes I was so sad that it was hard to listen to God. So, I would start to remember what I knew about God. I would remember things like ...

God is Spirit. He is always present, everywhere. God is all-powerful, the only power. God is Love. He is my Father-Mother. God is the one creator, and He created me in His image and likeness. God made me and knows me and loves me. He is right here with me. He will never leave me alone.

I would think about seven names for God that Christian Science uses to explain His nature: Life, Truth, Love, Principle, Mind, Soul, Spirit. I would know that God is good, that He makes me good and pours out good for me. In *Science and Health* Mrs. Eddy says, "All that is made is the work of God, and all is good."

Thinking about God like this made me feel better. I knew I could trust God. Then I would listen for new thoughts from Him. Good thoughts would come to me, and I knew God was talking right to me. These were my special messages from my Father-Mother. It made me feel very close to God. I knew that God loved me.

Things were getting a little better for my mom. She found a job, and we moved to an apartment. But this was the third school that I had been in so far that year, and

it was hard to make new friends again and again. Mom and Dad tried to show me that they loved me, but I wanted everyone to leave me alone.

I kept praying. The only thing that was the same, that did not change, was God. I knew that God would never change. He was always there. God would always love me. God would always love everybody. I could depend on Him.

I wanted to learn more about God. So I read the Bible Lesson¹ by myself. Sometimes I would open the Bible or *Science and Health* and read. It didn't matter if I couldn't understand all the words. I would read and find some thought that I really liked.

I turned to God more and more. And not just when I was sad, because I started feeling happier as I got closer to God. I turned to God every day-when I got up, at school, on the playground, at home. God was my best friend. God takes care of us all the time.

I remember one day school was let out early because we had a blizzard. I was walking home from school alone, and it was bitter cold. At first I wished Mom was there so I didn't have to walk home. But now she was working. So I started to think about God as my Father and Mother. I prayed to know that God was right there with me. I prayed the way I did when I climbed the tree. Soon the thought came to me that I must walk faster. I knew right away that this was God talking to me, helping me. I realized that I could do this. I kept thinking about God and thanking Him for being with me. I made it home safe and sound.

Mom and Dad did get a divorce. But God helped me to not be afraid. The more I knew God loved me and the more I listened to God, the less sad I was about Mom and Dad. And the more I felt their love for me, too.

If your Mom and Dad are not happy and are thinking about a divorce or have already divorced, you can look to God for help and love and peace. God is your Father and Mother. He loves you and gives you good thoughts. You can hear His special messages and feel His love. As you turn to God and learn more about Him, His all-power and all-presence, He helps you. My life got better and I was happier as I listened to God, the real Father-Mother of us all.

¹ The weekly Bible Lesson from the *Christian Science Quarterly*.