

SONG

“Have No Fear, Little Flock” (LSB #735)

Have no fear, little flock,
Have no fear, little flock.
For the Father has chosen to give you the kingdom.
Have no fear, little flock.

Have good cheer, little flock,
Have good cheer, little flock.
For the father will keep you in His love forever.
Have good cheer little flock.

Praise the Lord high above,
Praise the Lord high above.
For He stoops down heal you, uplift and restore you.
Praise the Lord high above.

Thankful hearts raise to God,
Thankful hearts raise to God.
For He stays close beside you, in all things works for you
Thankful hearts raise to God.



A mission project of the
LUTHERAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION
Worldwide Lutheran Translation Projects
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Classroom Devotion:



People Needing God:
Sharing the Gospel with Kids in
Papua New Guinea



LUTHERAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION
Worldwide Lutheran Translation Projects



Have you ever been afraid of ghosts?

Maybe you've been camping or at a sleepover, where the other kids have told ghost stories. Or maybe you saw a scary ghost movie on TV that made you afraid to sleep by yourself. Or maybe a creepy Halloween costume scared you.

Kids who live in other countries in places like Africa and South-east Asia get scared of spirits, too. In a country called Papua New Guinea (people call it PNG, for short), people in the villages and mountains worry all the time about bad spirits. Their false religions teach that bad spirits are all around us, just waiting to cause trouble.

So when something bad happens in a family – like when someone gets sick, for example – the PNG people are often afraid that it's because they made a spirit mad, and now that spirit is getting back at them by making their family member sick. So the people try to find ways to make the spirits around them happy by building them houses and giving them offerings. They make scary masks and shields to try to protect themselves.

In PNG, people need God, just like we need God. When we're scared, we need to hear His Word to us: "Don't be afraid! I am with you!" The Bible reminds us that Jesus is more powerful than anyone or anything in the world, and He loves us and has made us His children.

I'm so glad that we have our Bibles that we can open and read whenever we need them. But some people aren't so lucky. In PNG, for example, most children don't own a single book. Not one! That's why we're using our mission offerings to give them their very first book: *A Child's Garden of Bible Stories*, translated

into their language (called Tok Pisin), so they can understand what God is saying to them.

One of the chapters in the Bible storybook is about Moses and the children of Israel. Remember how the Israelites wandered in the desert for 40 years until God led them to the Promised Land? Well, it was finally time for the people to get to go into the Promised Land, but Moses couldn't go with them. Instead, God chose Joshua to lead His people into their new home.

But the Israelites were afraid. What if the people already living in the Promised Land didn't want them there? What if they attacked the Israelites?

God made a promise to the Israelites. He said, "Be strong and courageous...It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed." (Deuteronomy 31: 7-8)

This promise is for families in PNG who are frightened of the spirits, and this promise is for you whenever you're scared. God is with you! Be strong and courageous, because He will never leave you!

PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for always taking care of us and protecting us. Send your Holy Spirit to us, so that our faith in You can always be strong. Please also send the Holy Spirit to our brothers and sisters in Papua New Guinea, so that they can believe in Jesus and know Him as their Savior, too. Thank you for sending Jesus to die for us all. In His name we pray, Amen.

(over)