

He'll Run to You

We have a neighbor who loves children. After working in the main office of a local elementary school for 33 years, Kathi is now fully retired. Children flocked to her at school because she cared and she knew how to relate to them. Kathi is still a magnet to children. On days when we have our 1st and 2nd grade granddaughters at the house, stopping over to visit our neighbor is a treat. They won each other's hearts instantly when Abbie and Belle took over a magazine to the neighbor. The friendship was sealed when Kathi invited them in, gave them pretzels, sat down on the floor, and had them read to her. Without a doubt, it was God's love flowing through her as she made the girls feel special.

Fast forward to New Year's Day, 2023. The weather was sunny and warm, so we enjoyed spending most of the afternoon outside. The grandkids rode bikes, climbed trees, and joyfully chased each other around the yard. Then, our neighbor's door opened. Kathi and her husband started down the street on their daily walk. When Abbie and Belle saw her, they instantly started running towards her, shouting her name. They couldn't wait to give her a hug. Kathi turned around and immediately started running toward them with a big smile. Warm hugs followed when they met in the middle of the street. The love for each other was mutual.



Kathi is a loving neighbor, and so is God. God lives in your heart and is always present in our lives. All it takes is for us to take a step in His direction and call His name. God welcomes us, feeds us spiritually, and desires to spend time with us. And, if we acknowledge His presence, He will run to us. God loves us.

Loving and making children feel special is Kathi's nature. Loving us is what God is all about because He created love. The Bible reminds us, *"God is love." This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. (1 John 4:8-9).*

I had tears in my eyes when I saw the scene unfold in our neighborhood on New Year's Day. Seeing the girls respond to a neighbor who opened her home and her heart for them was heartwarming. When the girls called out her name, Kathi didn't wait for the girls to reach her. She ran towards Abbie and Belle just as fast as they were running toward her. In my mind, I pictured Jesus running towards Abbie and Belle. God will run to all who seek Him.

Here is the Point: God wants to be part of your life and is waiting for you to seek Him. He will run to you if you take the first step and call out His name. The relationship with God is a two-way street, with both moving towards each other in love.

Questions: Have you invited God into your life? Do you seek Him?

Closing Prayer: Most gracious, loving Father. We are grateful for people who show Your love through them. We cherish the special relationship we have with You. And we know that if we take the first step in seeking You, You will run to us. Amen.