

# God Loves You

## Encouragement from God's Decisions



WEST SOUND COMMUNITY CHURCH

WINTER 2020

"Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so," may be one of the all time favorite Christian songs from any language. If so, it's not difficult to know why. It's simple. Children love to sing it...adults too. It tells the truth...the greatest truth of all. After that, it needs no further defense. However, some may wonder about its history, so here you go..

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| <p>In 1860, "Jesus Loves Me" was penned by Susan Warner and first appeared in the novel, "Say and Seal" by her sister Anna Bartlett Warner. In the story, the poem was comfortingly spoken to a dying child.</p>   | <p>In 1862, William Bradbury wrote the music, added a chorus, modified the verses, and published it as the beloved song we've all come to know by heart.</p>  |
| <p>Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.<br/>Little ones to him belong, they are weak, but he is strong.</p> <p>Jesus loves me, loves me still, though I'm very weak and ill.<br/>From his shining throne on high, comes to watch me where I lie.</p> <p>Jesus loves me, he will stay close beside me all the way.<br/>Then his little child will take up to heaven for his dear sake.</p> | <p>Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.<br/>Little ones to him belong, they are weak, but he is strong.</p> <p>Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!<br/>Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.</p> <p>Jesus loves me he who died...heaven's gate to open wide.<br/>He will wash away my sin...let his little child come in.</p> <p>Jesus loves me, this I know, as he loved so long ago,<br/>taking children on his knee, saying, "Let them come to me."</p> |

More importantly, some may struggle to really know they are loved by God. After all, there sure is a great deal of adversity running wild on Planet Earth. In fact, you personally may be thinking along these lines. Christ follower or not, it seems reasonable that folks might doubt...not because of God, but because of the haphazard and reckless world we've all created.

So, how do we know. How can I encourage you with this great truth? Better yet, how does God prove the point. Well, let's find out. Let me start with this well known story...usually attributed to Ernest Hemingway. He he everyone's attention as he unpacked a small piece of history regarding a father and his growing son. They loved one another, but the son just couldn't come to terms with his Pop. So, they argued and quarreled and fought. Pop was wiser. He knew so much more...and he just wanted to help his son to be good, successful...to be wise. As time went on the son put distance between himself and his Father. Finally, emotionally full of himself and and inflamed toward Pop...he ran off. It didn't take the Father any time at all to start his search. He looked everywhere...all over the city, the out-lying villages, and the wilds in-between. Finally, not knowing where else to look or who else to ask, he had one more idea. He put a large ad in the main newspaper: "**Dear Paco, meet me in front of the newspaper office at noon. All is forgiven. I love you. Your father.**"



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The next day at noon in front of the newspaper office, 800 “Pacos” showed up....

Now I don't know if the story is true historically, but I know it's true theologically, psychologically, and relationally. GOD IS LIKE THIS. HE NOT ONLY LOVES...HE FORGIVES...AND TO DO SO HE MAKES AND EXECUTES PLANS TO ENSURE THEIR DELIVERY...

**Big Idea:** If you'd like eternal encouragement receive the truth about God's love,

Deut 7:9

Psalms 86:15

Isaiah 54:10

Romans 5:8

1 John 4:10

**First,** Since God loves you perfectly, he makes perfect plans with you in mind. John 1:-4, 14

**Second,** Since God loves you perfectly, he endures great sacrifice with you in mind. John 3:16

**Third,** Since God loves you perfectly, he protects the future with you in mind. John 14:1-6

**Fourth,** Since God loves you perfectly, steps up his relationship with you in mind. John 15:15-17

