



OLIVER AND THE TWINS

Learn to Pray

An adaptation of the book by the same title by Amy Lefeuve
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NOTE TO THE TEACHER

Display each illustration where indicated in text, laying volume aside when the story line continues beyond the picture.

INTRODUCTION

When our Lord Jesus Christ was living on this earth, He taught a great deal—including how to pray.

One day on a mountainside, many people sat listening to Him. “When you pray,” He said, “use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask Him. After this manner therefore pray ye.” (Matthew 6:7-8)

Then the Lord Jesus taught His listeners, and us, what we call “The Lord’s Prayer.” It is this prayer about which we shall be hearing in our story of Oliver and his twin sisters. In the beginning of our story they *said* the Lord’s Prayer, not really understanding what it meant. I am afraid they were doing what the Lord Jesus said we are not to do, using “vain repetitions.” But at the end of the story—well, you will find out! Let’s begin with . . .

Chapter 1

OUR FATHER WHICH ART IN HEAVEN



Show Illustration #1

Oliver was 15 years old, but he felt much older. He stood leaning on the white gate which was at the end of the lane leading to a little cottage in England.

The cottage was empty now. It had been the home of Oliver and his twin sisters ever since his father died. Here it was that his mother had cared for her children as best she could, selling her

paintings to keep Oliver in school. Oliver loved the cottage. He remembered many happy days spent there.

Everything was changed now, however. Tears came to Oliver’s eyes as he remembered the day his mother died, only a week before. “My son,” she had said, “there is no one to care for the girls now except you. You will have to leave school for a time, but I trust for not too long.

“You have heard me speak of my brother who, because he was displeased about my marrying your dear father, never came to see me after we were married. I do not know where he lives now. But I have heard he moved to Topminster. I want you to take the girls and try to find him there. He will give you advice on what to do, I know. You can find work easier in the city than here in the country.



Show Illustration #2

“And, Oliver, my boy, I know I am putting a heavy burden on your shoulders. But I want you to promise me that you will rear the girls properly. Above all I want you to teach them to love God. I know they, as well as you, Oliver, are Christians. I remember well when each of you took the Lord Jesus into your heart. God will look after you, because He is your Father.”

Oliver had quickly promised his mother to care for his sisters. But now, as he leaned on the little white gate, he wondered if he would be able to keep those promises. *How is a fifteen-year-old boy going to be able to care for two lively seven-year-old girls?* he thought. *But I do not have to do it alone. Even if we never find our uncle, God is our Father and He will lead me.* Oliver squared his shoulders, held his dark head high, and walked away, his eyes shining with determination.

He and the girls had been staying with a kind neighbor down the road after everything was sold out of the cottage. Tomorrow he planned to leave, with the twins, for Topminster, where he hoped to find his uncle. That night, after the girls were in bed, shining blonde curls spread out on their pillows and blue eyes closed in sweet sleep, Oliver and the neighbor had a long talk.

“Where will you stay until you find your uncle?” the neighbor asked.

“I do not know. But God is our Father and He knows. I am trusting Him to show me what to do.” Oliver spoke with confidence.

“Well then, God has put it into my mind to send you to my sister. Topminster is a big place and you may not find your uncle right away. You give my sister this note and I am sure she will let you stay with her for a while.”