



The story of . . .
**CHILDREN OF THE
HEAVENLY FATHER**

*The Father himself loves you because you have loved me
and have believed that I came from God.*

John 16:27

Words: Carolina Sandell-Berg (1832-1903)

Music: Swedish Folk Melody



Stanza four of this enjoyable and cherished hymn begins with these words: “Though he giveth or he taketh.” These six words took on a very special meaning for its author, far more than we might realize.

Carolina, or Lina as she preferred, wrote many hymns during her 71 years. In fact, there have been over 650 hymns and poems that have been found with her name on them. However, her most famous hymn was “Children of the Heavenly Father”. Lina was born into the home of Pastor James Sandell, a Lutheran pastor, in 1832. As a child, she spent many hours with her father because she was often too ill to play with the other children. Many of her friends called her a “daddy’s girl”. Lina had a mysterious paralysis that plagued her for many years. It became so serious that when she was 12 she was not expected to live. However, God had other plans for her, for it was after that illness as a teenager she wrote and published her first book of poems.

One day when Lina was 26, a terrible tragedy struck. She and her father were traveling by boat near their home on Lake Vattern. Suddenly the boat lurched forward in the water and Lina’s father accidentally tripped and fell overboard. All Lina could do was sit helplessly on deck as she watched her father drown. It was the saddest day in Lina’s life. She loved her father dearly!

When Lina was 35, she married C.O. Berg, a very successful businessman. However, tragedy struck a second time when their first child died at birth.

Although it must have been terribly difficult, Lina always clung to her faith in the Savior. We can see that faith by the words she wrote in another hymn titled, “Day by Day”:

*Day by day and with each passing moment,
Strength I find to meet my trials here.
Trusting in my Father’s wise bestowment,
I’ve no cause for worry or for fear.*

As we take a look at today’s hymn, remember the trials that Lina endured, and thank the Lord that he will be with us every day as well, and in every trial we might face.

The study of . . . CHILDREN OF THE HEAVENLY FATHER

Children of the heav'nly Father
Safely in His bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor star in Heaven
Such a refuge e'er was given.

God His own doth tend and nourish;
In His holy courts they flourish;
From all evil things He spares them;
In His mighty arms He bears them.

Neither life nor death shall ever
From the Lord His children sever;
Unto them His grace He showeth,
And their sorrows all He knoweth.

Though He giveth or He taketh,
God His children ne'er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely
To preserve them pure and holy.

Lo, their very hairs He numbers,
And no daily care encumbers
Them that share His ev'ry blessing
And His help in woes distressing.

Praise the Lord in joyful numbers:
Your Protector never slumbers.
At the will of your Defender
Ev'ry foeman must surrender.

1. Why can we be called God's children?
2. Where did Lina get this picture? See Psalm 91:4.
3. What is a refuge? See Psalm 46:1
4. Name some ways God nourishes or feeds us.
5. List some things God spares us from.
6. Why can't even death separate us from God?
7. Who said those same words? See Job 1:21.
8. Where did Lina get these words? See Matthew 10:30.
9. Encumber means to load up with difficulties.
10. Why can we praise God no matter how bad things are?
11. How do we know that God never sleeps? See Ps 121:3.
12. Who are the foemen?
13. How can we see the great faith of Carolina Sandell-Berg show through in her writing of this hymn?
14. Which verse means the most to you?
15. Memorize stanzas one and three.

Your Project . . .

Ask your parents if they can recall anyone they know who went through a terrible tragedy yet remained faithful to Jesus.



The Following are
Sample
PowerPoint Slides

The Story of CHILDREN OF THE HEAVENLY FATHER

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and have believed that I came from God.*

John 16:27



Carolina Sandell-Berg (1832-1903)



(Double Click to Listen)



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The story of . . . **PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY**

How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise him!
Psalm 147:1

Words: Joachim Neander (1650-1680)
Translated by Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878)
Music: Unknown

A favorite hymn of Christians for many years has been “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”. This hymn is written to give praise to our God, the creator of the universe. This hymn writer certainly gives us many reasons to praise our Creator God. Yet a very unusual coincidence happened many years after this song was written.

Joachim Neander was born in 1650, to a teacher and his wife. His grandfather was a famous musician and preacher. When Joachim turned 20, he became involved with a group of rowdy young students who one Sunday stormed into the St. Martini Church and disrupted their worship service. Little did Joachim know at that time that within a few years he would become the pastor of that very same church.



Before he became a preacher, Neander was a grammar school principal. During his teaching years he enjoyed taking long walks in the beautiful Dussel River valley near his home. The valley was lush with trees and flowers and the valley even offered waterfalls, forests and caves that he could explore. Joachim loved the valley so much that it was eventually named after him, Neander Valley. Unfortunately, Neander’s life was cut short at age 30 when he died from a bout with the disease tuberculosis. However, before he died, he wrote the beautiful hymn about God’s wondrous creation, “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation”. No doubt his peaceful valley helped remind him of God’s almighty creating power.

But that wasn’t the end of the story! Two hundred years after Neander died, his beautiful valley was sold and used to help mine for limestone which was used in making cement. In 1856, some miners discovered what looked like human bones in one of the caves. The bones were “tested” by an Irish science professor who declared that they were proof of evolution. He claimed the bones were the missing link between apes and humans. They named the skeleton after the valley in which they were discovered—Neanderthal Man.

Today these bones have proven to be a hoax, just a skeleton of a human being. The very valley that produced a scientist’s spoof of the theory of evolution was the very same valley that inspired Joachim Neander to write his beautiful hymn about God’s creation.

As you study this hymn notice all the different reasons Neander gives for praising our God. Stanzas five and six are often not included in most hymn books today.

The study of . . .

PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;
Praise Him in glad adoration.

1. Why can we call God the King of creation?
2. Why should we praise God?
3. Who else adored Jesus? See Matthew 21:11.

Praise to the Lord, Who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Who as on wings of an eagle uplifteth, sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires ever have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

4. How does God reign over all things?
5. Read Isaiah 40:31.
6. Ordaineth means to decree or make.

Praise to the Lord, Who hath fearfully, wondrously, made thee;
Health hath vouchsafed and, when heedlessly falling, hath stayed thee.
What need or grief ever hath failed of relief?
Wings of His mercy did shade thee.

7. When did God do this? See Psalm 139:13.
8. How does God shade us with his wings?

Praise to the Lord, Who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
Who from the heavens the streams of his mercy doth send thee.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do.
Who with His love doth befriend thee.

9. Why is God merciful to us?
10. How does God befriend us?

**Praise to the Lord, Who, when tempests their warfare are waging,
Who, when the elements madly around thee are raging,
Biddeth them cease, turneth their fury to peace,
Whirlwinds and waters assuaging.*

11. Can we praise God when everything is going wrong?
12. Assuaging means to quiet or calm down.

**Praise to the Lord, Who, when darkness of sin is abounding,
Who, when the godless do triumph, all virtue confounding,
Sheddeth His light, chaseth the horrors of night,
Saints with His mercy surrounding.*

13. How can we praise God when feeling guilty?
14. When does the devil seem to be winning?
15. How does God turn darkness into day?

Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him.
Let the Amen sound from His people again,
Gladly for aye we adore Him.

16. How can we praise God with our whole being?
17. What should all praise God?
18. What does Amen mean?
19. Gladly forever adore him!
20. Memorize stanzas one, two, and seven

** Usually not included in most hymn books.*

Your Project . . .

**Make a list of all the times this hymn mentions that we should praise the Lord.
Then add five more of your own.**



The Following are
Sample
PowerPoint Slides

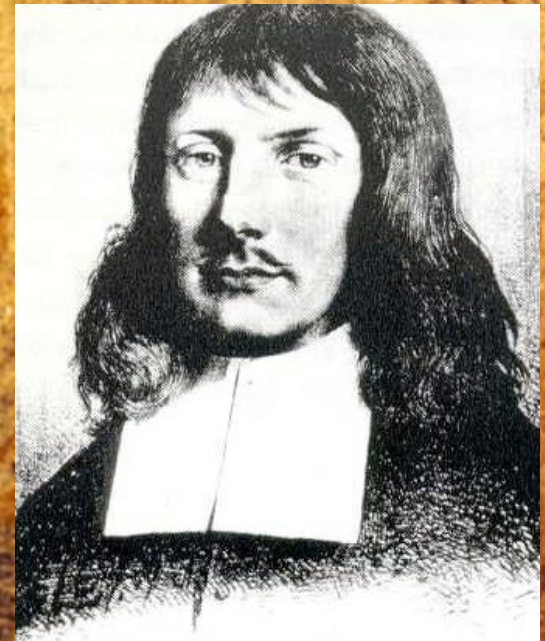
The Story of **PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY**

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how pleasant and fitting to praise him!*
Psalm 147:1

Joachim Neander (1650-1680)



(Double Click to Listen)



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The story of . . . ONWARD, CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS

Fight the good fight of the faith. 1 Timothy 6:12

Words: Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)

Music: Arthur S. Sullivan (1842-1900)



S. Baring-Gould

Have you ever tried writing a hymn? How would you begin? Perhaps you would first consider a topic for your hymn, like Christmas, or family, or prayer. Next you would have to begin writing your poetry so each line of every stanza had exactly the same number of syllables. If you want it to rhyme, you must also carefully choose your words. Many hymn writers change their lyrics again and again until they say exactly what the writer wants them to. When you are finished with the text, you can then begin working on the melody. Strangely, there are a few writers who write the words to a melody they already have, or who write both the words and the melody at the same time. You want your hymn to be something that people will enjoy singing, and that will be remembered.

Rev. Baring-Gould was born in England in 1834. His father worked for the East India Trading Company, but because of ill health he was forced to retire and spent his later years traveling with his family. That meant that Sabine spent year after year traveling from one place to another. Finally, when he was old enough, he went to college to become a teacher. His students remembered him because he often came to class with a live pet bat on his shoulder.

Mr. Baring-Gould loved to write. He wrote over 100 books plus many poems and hymns. Mr. Baring-Gould also loved to teach Sunday school class to his church children. One year at Pentecost, a neighboring church in Yorkshire invited his Sunday school class to come to their church for a festival. To make the short trip more fun, Mr. Baring-Gould hoped to teach his children a traveling song, but he could find nothing. Finally, he decided to sit down and write his own hiking hymn. He wanted to make the song sound as if the children were soldiers going to battle against Satan, so his first line began, "Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war, with the cross of Jesus going on before."

Mr. Baring-Gould later said about writing this now famous hymn, "I wanted the children to sing when marching from one village to the other, but couldn't think of anything quite suitable, so I sat up at night resolved to write something myself. 'Onward, Christian Soldiers' was the result. It was written in great haste, and I'm afraid some of the rhymes are faulty. Certainly nothing has surprised me more than its popularity." The melody Mr. Baring-Gould wrote didn't last too long, for a few years after he wrote the hymn, Mr. Arthur Sullivan—also a great musician—wrote his own melody to the song which we still enjoy singing today.

What a wonderful hymn Mr. Baring-Gould wrote that shows how we should stand up to fight our battles against Satan wearing the full armor of God. He clearly shows us that all our strength to fight comes from our royal Master. As you sing the hymn, place yourself on that path to Yorkshire singing the hymn with the rest of your Christian soldier friends. Also notice that stanzas two and four are often not included in most hymnbooks.

The study of . . . **ONWARD, CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS**

Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus going on before.
Christ, the royal Master, leads against the foe;
Forward into battle see His banners go!

Refrain

*Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus going on before.*

***At the sign of triumph Satan's host doth flee;
On then, Christian soldiers, on to victory!
Hell's foundations quiver at the shout of praise;
Brothers lift your voices, loud your anthems raise.
...Refrain***

Like a mighty army moves the church of God;
Brothers, we are treading where the saints have trod.
We are not divided, all one body we,
One in hope and doctrine, one in charity
...Refrain

***What the saints established that I hold for true.
What the saints believèd, that I believe too.
Long as earth endureth, men the faith will hold,
Kingdoms, nations, empires, in destruction rolled.
...Refrain***

Crowns and thrones may perish, kingdoms rise and wane,
But the church of Jesus constant will remain.
Gates of hell can never 'gainst that church prevail;
We have Christ's own promise, and that cannot fail.
...Refrain

Onward then, ye people, join our happy throng,
Blend with ours your voices in the triumph song.
Glory, laud and honor unto Christ the King,
This through countless ages men and angels sing.
...Refrain

1. Why is the cross of Jesus such an important symbol to us?
2. Who is the foe?
3. Why did armies take banners into battle with them?

4. Why does the devil hate our songs of praise?

5. Who makes up the church of God?
6. Who are the saints? How do we walk their paths?
7. What is doctrine? Why is it important that our doctrine be pure?

8. The Apostles' Creed shows us what the saints believed.

9. Why will the church of Jesus remain forever?
10. Where did Baring-Gould get this thought? See Matt. 16:18.

11. How can we get others to join us in this song?

12. How can we say that when we sing this song we are really singing with all the saints who have gone on before us?

13. Find some parts in this hymn that remind you of Mr. Baring-Gould traveling with his students.

14. How can this song make us feel that we are not alone in fighting our battles?

15. What kind of armor should God's army wear? See Eph. 6:10-17.

16. Memorize the first and last stanzas and one in between.

Your Project . . .

Make a drawing showing the armor of the Christian as mentioned in Ephesians 6:10-17.



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*“Fight the good fight of the faith.”
1 Timothy 6:12*

Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)



(Double Click to Listen)



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