

## Missing God

By J. Bradley Wigger

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Our son, David, 3 years old at the time, was praying at bedtime. He asked God to bless his friends, then his family, his pets, and stuffed animals. Finally, he ended the prayer, saying, 'And God, I miss you.'

Huh? I did a mental double take. What was that about? What should I do? Part of me wanted to offer him a comforting story or clever advice that would assure him of God's presence, but another part of me was paralyzed by these stark words, 'God, I miss you.' So instead of saying anything, I kissed him goodnight and went to tell Jane so she could worry, too. Jane was equally puzzled and concerned. The truth is, a parent cannot simply make a 3-

year old, or anyone else, feel something they do not, certainly not the presence of God. Whatever we could say or do would fall short of the depth that was generating David's prayer. This was from the heart.

The next morning over our peanut butter and toast, with a touch of fear and trembling, I did bring the matter up with our son, 'David, last night when you were praying, you said you missed God.'

'Oh, yeah,' he answered, 'but that's ok now.'

'What do you mean?'

'Well,' he said, 'God came to me last night...'

I interrupted, 'David, you mean like in a dream?' (My modern brain had to find some way to explain this.)

'I dunno, I guess. Anyway, I was playin' in the sandbox behind our old house (we had recently moved across town into an apartment), and God came and said, 'Come, David,' so I followed, and we came here, and now God is here with us in our new home!', he smiled.

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