

Following The Piper

Key Words: **Trust**

Key Verse: "All things have been handed over to me by my Father." *Matthew 11:27a*

He seemed like such a nice man, spending time with the children and playing their games. He would often gather the children around him by playing a pipe he'd made himself. Once he took the children down to the meadow and showed them how to make pipes for themselves, using the strong reeds that grew by the river.

Christopher didn't like him. He wasn't sure why, but he just didn't. The other children teased Christopher, calling him all sorts of names when he refused to join in. The stranger began to give them treats and take them on outings, and Christopher's best friends stopped speaking to him. Christopher hated it. He didn't like being alone. He began to grow angry.

"I'm playing for you, Christopher," said the stranger one day. "Why don't you dance?" Christopher shouted, "Your music is stupid, and so are all of you!" He ran home and spent the afternoon playing on his computer.

The police came to his house to ask him when he'd last seen his friends. "You'd better ask *him*," Christopher answered. The police were very interested hearing about the stranger who had lured the children. They had been so busy dancing to the stranger's pipe that they'd been led away without even noticing. All the parents were upset. They couldn't believe

that someone who'd been so interested in their children would take them away.

Christopher was the only one who had seen through the stranger. He helped the police with their inquiries, and told them everything he knew about the stranger. He was able to help the police find the stranger, and the children. They were crying and they hadn't eaten for several days. The stranger had become nasty and they were very glad to return home.

Christopher was given a medal that read, "To a boy of courage and maturity who saved the lives of the children in the village." Christopher's mom gave him a hug and said, "It's good you followed your instincts and didn't follow the crowd. You were brave enough to stand alone, even when it was hard. Deep inside you knew that man was evil, and by trusting yourself you saved many lives. God was with you, and you heard his voice." Christopher just smiled. It was good to have his friends back.

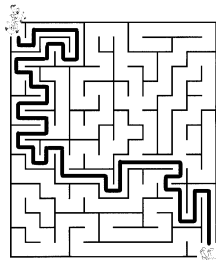
Questions

Tell us about someone you were afraid to trust?

Jesus tells us he will carry our burdens, what does that mean?

Gospel Grams

Today's Gospel Story is from
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30



Maze

I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Fallen Letter Puzzle

Answers

I will give you rest.

Secret Phrase:

WEARY REST Yoke Heavy Burdens Son Reveal

Jumble Puzzle

