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#### WHEN HIDE AND SEEK ISN'T FUNNY

The neighbours had quite a scare the other day when Jessie, aged two, disappeared about the same time that his siblings left for school. They searched the house to no avail. Phone calls to the nearby elementary school proved futile and a frantic hunt of the block yielded the same results. Calling out his name, they searched in vain. Finally in desperation they called the local police department.

A couple of RCMP officers quickly arrived and conducted their own search of the house. A couple of searches, actually. By now mom and dad were frantic while some neighbours (who knew nothing of the situation) questioned why a squad car was parked in front of the house. Finally, after two interior checks, an officer heard the sound of scratching behind the living room chesterfield. Knowing the household dog was in the back yard, he pulled the piece of furniture away from the wall. There sat Jessie – probably a bit frightened at all the noisy goings on. The last I heard was that he'd probably been playing a game that for everyone else wasn't funny. But hey, he's only two and Hide and Go Seek is standard fare at that age. We're all just very thankful for the wonderful outcome.

I couldn't help but think of similar games we've probably all played: we hide from those things that we'd rather not face; we pretend we're not there when it's time to assume a burden we'd rather avoid; or, we forget that none of us lives or dies to ourselves. I am so thankful for a God who not only knows exactly where I am, He never stops calling my name.

"The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their cry;"  
(Psalm 34:15 NIV)

In all my wanderings, Lord, stay near.