



**LET'S SHARE  
OUR FAITH**

**CHILDREN'S SERVICE INTERNATIONAL**

## CHILDREN'S SERVICE INTERNATIONAL

Singing, praying and crafting together: All over the world children go to church. At Sunday School they often hear Bible stories. Yet what do children discover worldwide in the Bible and what is important to them? What moves them? This booklet has been written so that children all over the world can tell others what they think about these questions. Through meeting each other children develop empathy for people in other countries and cultures. They find out that diversity is enriching.

YOU  
+ ME

**YOU + ME: FRIENDS AROUND THE WORLD** is an educational programme for children for Children's Service and primary school. Children get to know one another worldwide. They meet at eye level in an ecumenical context. And they are open for what they share and where they differ.

**YOU + ME: FRIENDS AROUND THE WORLD** is a programme of Evangelical Mission in Solidarity, a network of churches and mission societies in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Europe.

### THIS IS HOW IT WORKS

- ➔ In this booklet you will find ideas for a Children's Service on Mark 9:33-37. It is also available in German and Indonesian.
- ➔ The elephant Emso and the little bird Pipit will join the children at their Children's Service.
- ➔ The children can draw their thoughts on the story on the sheets provided.
- ➔ The drawings will then be sent to a children's group in another country.
- ➔ The contact to a children's group will arise through the tandem scheme of the international Bible project for adults. The Evangelical Mission in Solidarity is the project coordinator.
- ➔ If you do not take part in the Bible project for adults you can use a partnership existing in your congregation, your town or also a personal contact. Please inform your partner group about the exchange, so that they can also order the materials.

More information at [www.ems-friends.org](http://www.ems-friends.org)



## WITH GOD THE LITTLE ONES ARE THE GREATEST

### THOUGHTS ON MARK 9:33-37

God has standards that are different from our human ones. Greatness, reputation, title, money and power do not count. For Jesus, what counts is serving others. Serving means being there for other people and respecting each other.

People generally see children as being the little ones in society. That God sees the little ones as the greatest is shown by the way Jesus gets on with children. Jesus places a child in the middle of the quarrelling disciples and thus in the centre of action. God sees the little ones and shows that they are precious. More: there is even a divine promise to welcome children.

Children today can be sure of this:

**I am precious and God loves me.**

### MATERIALS FOR THE CHILDREN'S SERVICE

- . Pencils, drawing sheets
- . Emso the Elephant and Pipit the Bird are presented or performed in a creative way
- . A big heart to stand on, made of e.g. from cardboard or a bed-sheet



You can order or download more drawing sheets from [www.ems-friends.org](http://www.ems-friends.org)



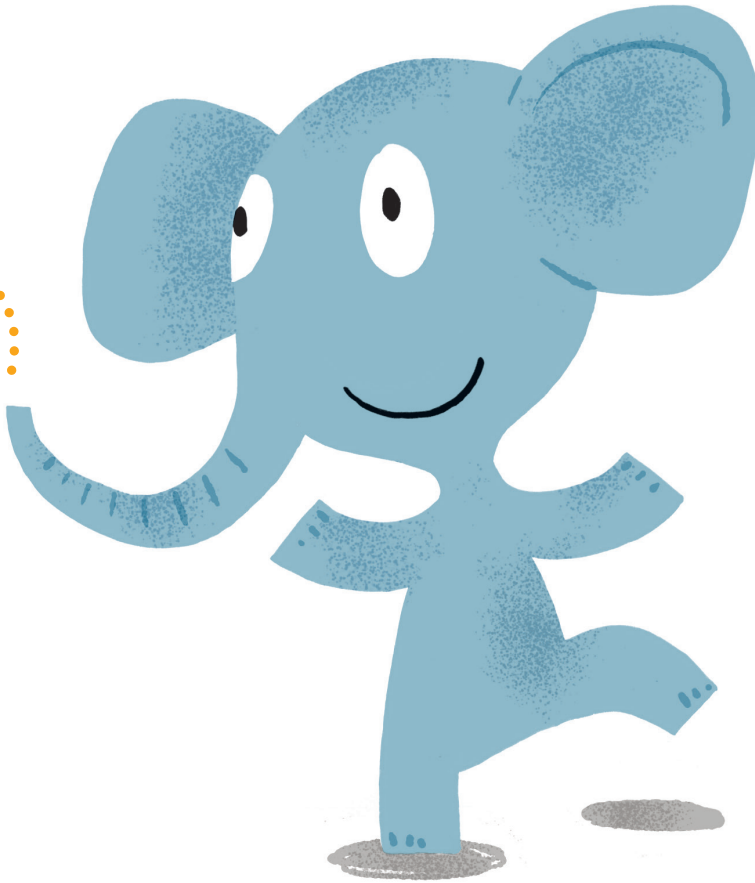
HELLO I  
I'M **PIPIT** \*



\* »PIPIT« IS AN INDONESIAN WORD AND MEANS »SPARROW«.

I'M HELLO  
EMSO

YOU  
+ ME



# YOU ARE PRECIOUS AND GOD

## STORY WITH MOVEMENTS

*The children sit in a circle.*

*Pipit the Bird and Emso the Elephant get to know each other.*

**Pipit:** *softly, hidden in the room* Tweet, tweet, tweet.

**Emso:** *to the children* Hey, can you hear that too?

**Pipit:** *softly* Tweet, tweet, tweet.

**Emso:** Where does the sound come from?  
Can you help me?

*Children cup their hand behind their ear,  
in order to hear better.*

**Pipit:** *softly* Tweet, tweet, tweet.

*Children discover Pipit.*

**Emso:** Hello! Who are you?

**Pipit:** My name is Pipit.

**Emso:** Oh, that suits you well. My name is Emso.

**Pipit:** *sobs and sighs* Oh dear...

**Emso:** What is wrong, Pipit? Are you sad? You seem so down and hid yourself here in the room instead of sitting in the circle with us.

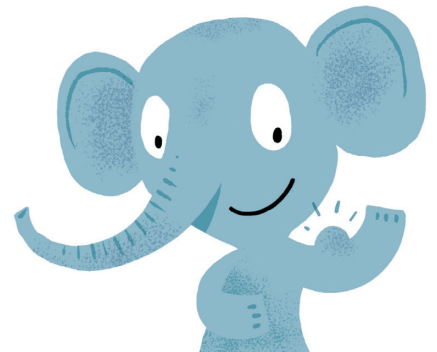
**Pipit:** Yes, Emso. I am really sad. And when I see you and the children sitting here I feel even sadder.

**Emso:** *totally surprised.* What? I love being here and getting to know all the children – and you? You are sad? Why?

**Pipit:** Well, it's... it's because I'm so small. You are all much bigger than me and you as an elephant are much stronger too. You know, I would love to be big and strong like you and respected by everyone.

**Emso:** *comforts Pipit* Come on, Pipit. Don't be sad. I have just thought of a story from the Bible. I'd like to tell it to you and you will see things differently to how you do now.

*Emso tells the story according to Mark 9:33-37 in his own words.*



# LOVES YOU



Jesus had lots of friends who went around with him everywhere. One day some of them were walking together to Capernaum. *All the children run round in a circle.* On the way the disciples got into a terrible argument. Each of them wanted to be the biggest *stand up and stretch*, the greatest *clap your hands*, the strongest *flex your muscles*, the best *thumbs up*, the most important *pat yourselves on the back*. The disciples wanted to hear who Jesus would say was the biggest *stand up and stretch*, the greatest *clap your hands*, the strongest *flex your muscles*, the best *thumbs up*, the most important *pat yourselves on the back*.

Yet Jesus did something the disciples did not expect at all. He called a little child to him, placed the child in the middle *teacher places a big heart in the centre* and hugged the child. Then he said: »With God, the smallest are the greatest! If you want to be my friends, then take care of the little ones too. For God especially loves children.«

*Children – one after another – can now go into the heart in the centre of the circle and all say to the child in the middle: »You are precious and God loves you.«*

**Pipit:** Really? Is that true?

**Emso:** What?

**Pipit:** With God the smallest are the greatest?

**Emso:** Of course.

**Pipit:** *is happy* Oh, how wonderful!  
*Pipit moves into the heart.*



## DRAWING SHEET

The children draw in the hearts:

- . Jesus places a child in the middle.  
**Draw Jesus and yourself.**
- . Jesus sees that there is a treasure in every child.  
What treasure is there in you? **Can you draw it?**

## MEMORY VERSE

**»Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me.«**

Mark 9:37

