

VERA

And Jesus said: “Suffer the little children to come unto me.” Amen. I cannot tell you how truly inspiring it is to see so many bright and youthful faces shining with the promise of Jesus’s love here tonight. I love children, but I don’t have to tell you mothers out there how hard it is to raise three children in today’s world.

But with a strong hand and the help of God, I believe I’ve done a wonderful job. So, of course, it fell on me to do the children’s devotional tonight. So, children, scoot up to the edge of your pew. This is for you.

The other night I was sitting out on my back porch having a nice glass of delicious lemonade and contemplating hard this coming evening of song and worship and the great challenge the Lord has given to me to share his love and guidance with you, when whoop! Something plopped into my nice glass of lemonade. Now, can anybody guess what plopped into my glass? It being JUNE and all? *(Pause.)*

Nobody? A JUNE BUG! That’s right. And I turned to my husband Burl who was sitting out on the porch with me, and I said, “Burl, would you look at that, a June Bug just jumped into my lemonade.” And Burl said, “Well, you can’t have mine.” And I said, “Burl!” *(Laughs.)* And he said, “Flick it out with your straw, there’s nothing wrong with it.”

And I just had to sigh, ‘cause there was wasted a whole big glass of refreshing lemonade. And I admit it, I was right mad with that June Bug. But while I was digging around for his little drowning body, the Lord in his wondrous way spoke to me, and He said, “Think on that June Bug.” And I did. And God, in his wisdom, let me see that we, too, all of us, are June Bugs in this world. Flying aimlessly, hitting the screen doors of life, and drowning in the refreshments! And the Lord was speaking to me so loud and clear that I made Burl put on his shoes and trap me a couple of June Bugs for our lesson tonight. *(VERA displays her bandanna with bugs inside. [NOTE: The June Bugs are imaginary. They are mimed by the actor.]* Now, if I open my hanky like this, the June Bug will fly away.

We-e-e! Look at that! Look at him go! Just like a sinner. No direction, no purpose, doomed to an unhappy end. BUT what if we had tied a little thread on the old June Bug’s back leg? Have you ever done that? I bet you have. What would happen if we let *him* go? *(To JUNE BUG.)* Fly! Get up from there and fly.

(The BUG finally flies.)

Well, look, he’s flying perfect circles around my head. Just like a Christian. I don’t even see that other old June Bug. He’s lost. But this June Bug with the thread isn’t going anywhere.

This thread is just like Jesus’s love and hold on us. But you see how that June Bug pulls on his thread? Well, we pull on our threads too. That’s SIN. And if we pull too hard on our thread, what will happen? It’ll pull our leg right off!

Now which June Bug would you rather be? This nice June Bug flying in perfect circles or a nasty June Bug flying around helter-skelter getting into God knows what? Nobody? Well, I think I know the answer. And I'm here to tell you tonight that Jesus wants to run a thread from His mighty hand to the hind leg of your soul. Let Him tie it on tonight, and as long as we don't pull too hard on that thread, it'll get stronger and stronger. And thicker and thicker. And we will fly in perfect circles around God's head in this hateful world and in the glorious world He has prepared for us beyond—

(The June Bug, which has heretofore been flying perfect circles around VERA's head, goes into a tailspin and lands on VERA. She throws a fit, jumping, brushing, and shimmying to get the June Bug off her person. She knocks the June Bug to the floor and viciously steps on it. She bows her head.)

Let us pray.