

## The Lesson of the Lighthouse



A lighthouse is built on the coast to warn ships of rock and sandbars. Its light flashes out across the water through the dark night. Also, when it is foggy, its loud horn warns boats to stay away from the rocks along the shore.

Mackenzie lived near the ocean and could see a lighthouse from his window. He liked to watch the light sweep back and forth, and on foggy nights the sound of the horn was like music when he was going to sleep.

Mackenzie knew that the keeper of a lighthouse serves faithfully throughout bad storms and thick fogs. Although the keeper never gets to see the person that is sailing the ship, he is thankful that the light has helped him.

One summer, Mackenzie and a friend spent many happy hours together swimming in the ocean and rowing their boats. But one day, they had an argument. Mackenzie told his mother that his friend was not kind to him. He told Mackenzie that he never wanted to play with him again. He wanted to swim and row his boat all by himself for the rest of the summer.

Mother told Mackenzie that, just like fog cannot hurt or destroy anything, and it only hides things for a time, so a belief in anger cannot really change anything or take anything away from us. It only hides what is true. And just like the light from the lighthouse shines through the fog, so a smile or a word of kindness can shine through a fog of anger and brighten someone's thoughts.

Mother also told Mackenzie that the fog of anger would lift and he would see all the good that was really his friend. Mackenzie thought this over for a while. Soon he heard a call from outdoors, and there was his pal with his boat oars in his hands. He asked Mackenzie if he wanted to go out in his boat. Mackenzie said he did and off the two boys went, walking toward the water and laughing and talking as they went. The fog of anger had lifted, and nothing had changed about their friendship.

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*Hymn #70 "God giveth light to all, who ask with prayer sincere;..."*