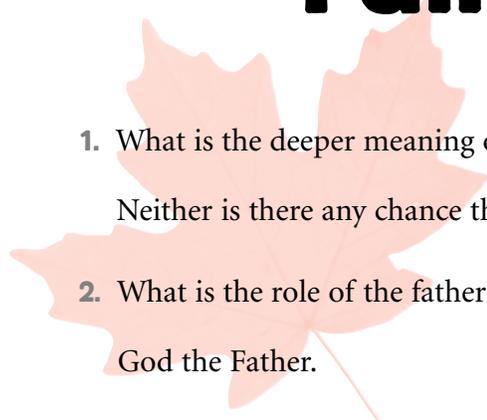


The Author's Answers to the Questions for Adult Reflection

Fall Spectacular

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1. What is the deeper meaning of the last line in the story?

Neither is there any chance that we will not make it to the feast.

2. What is the role of the father in the story?

God the Father.

3. Why did the children's parents arrange for them to walk alone?

So that they could make it on their own. And the children feel better that they did.

4. What is the deeper meaning in what the mother said when she told to children to "stay on the good trail"?

Surely this one is obvious.

5. What does it mean that Uncle Fred was rich but he didn't have much money?

Also obvious.

6. Why is it significant that the children arrive at a big feast, and why is it important that this feast is a supper?

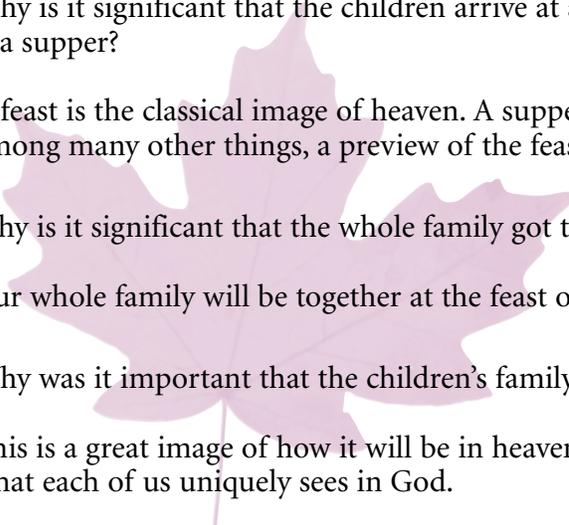
A feast is the classical image of heaven. A supper recalls the last supper which is considered, among many other things, a preview of the feast of heaven.

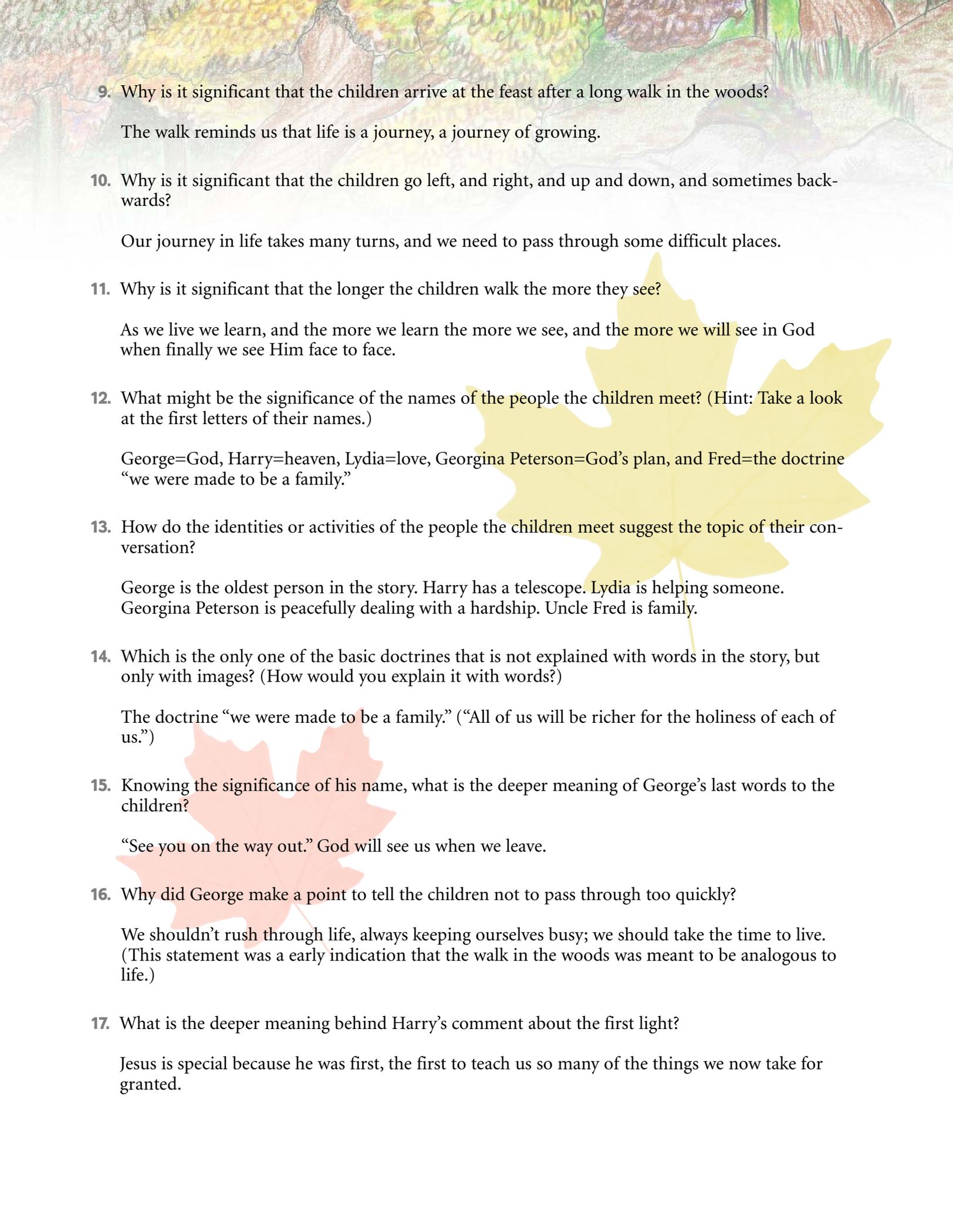
7. Why is it significant that the whole family got together for the feast?

Our whole family will be together at the feast of heaven.

8. Why was it important that the children's family brought a contribution to the feast?

This is a great image of how it will be in heaven when everyone will share with everyone else what each of us uniquely sees in God.



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9. Why is it significant that the children arrive at the feast after a long walk in the woods?

The walk reminds us that life is a journey, a journey of growing.

10. Why is it significant that the children go left, and right, and up and down, and sometimes backwards?

Our journey in life takes many turns, and we need to pass through some difficult places.

11. Why is it significant that the longer the children walk the more they see?

As we live we learn, and the more we learn the more we see, and the more we will see in God when finally we see Him face to face.

12. What might be the significance of the names of the people the children meet? (Hint: Take a look at the first letters of their names.)

George=God, Harry=heaven, Lydia=love, Georgina Peterson=God's plan, and Fred=the doctrine "we were made to be a family."

13. How do the identities or activities of the people the children meet suggest the topic of their conversation?

George is the oldest person in the story. Harry has a telescope. Lydia is helping someone. Georgina Peterson is peacefully dealing with a hardship. Uncle Fred is family.

14. Which is the only one of the basic doctrines that is not explained with words in the story, but only with images? (How would you explain it with words?)

The doctrine "we were made to be a family." ("All of us will be richer for the holiness of each of us.")

15. Knowing the significance of his name, what is the deeper meaning of George's last words to the children?

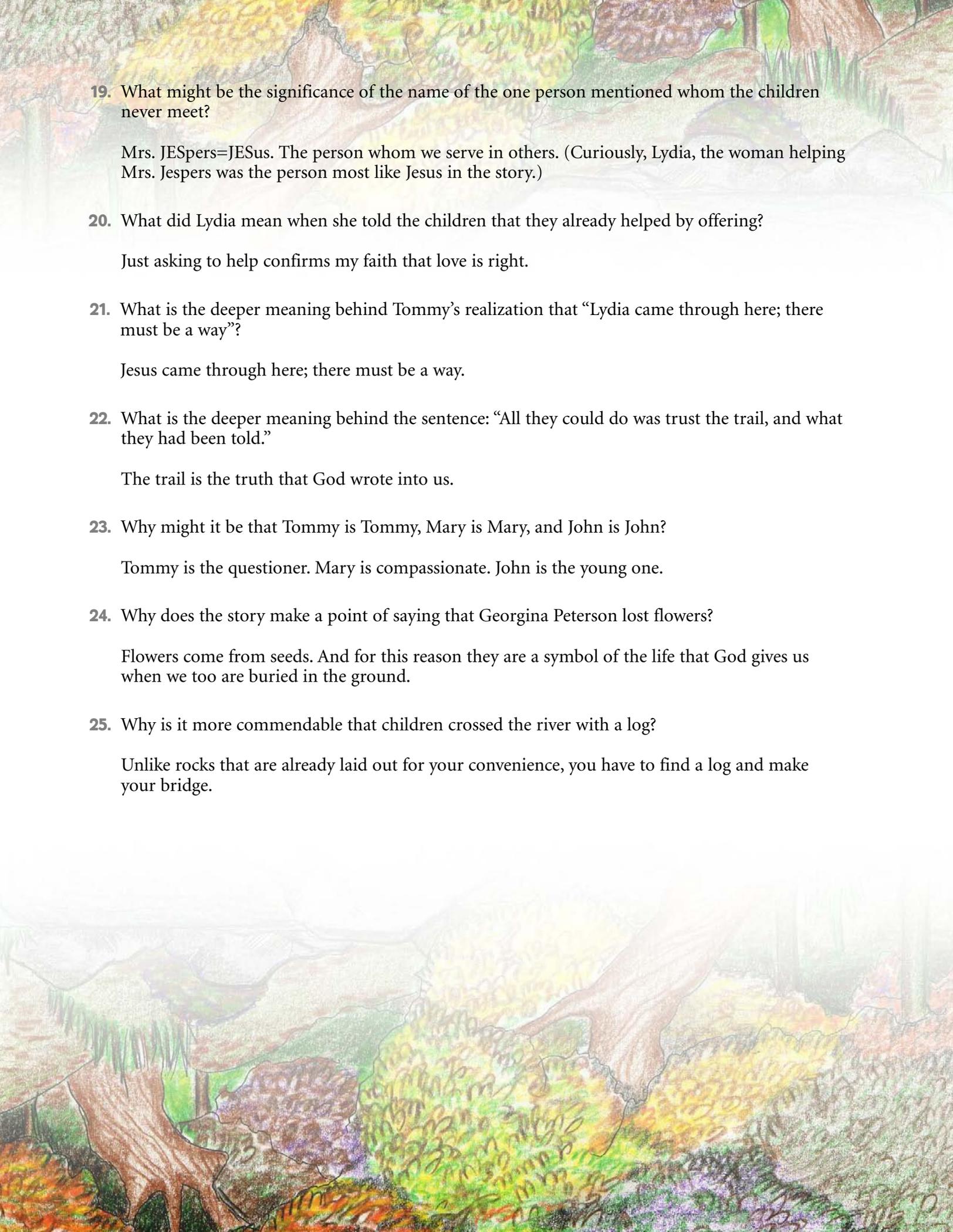
"See you on the way out." God will see us when we leave.

16. Why did George make a point to tell the children not to pass through too quickly?

We shouldn't rush through life, always keeping ourselves busy; we should take the time to live. (This statement was an early indication that the walk in the woods was meant to be analogous to life.)

17. What is the deeper meaning behind Harry's comment about the first light?

Jesus is special because he was first, the first to teach us so many of the things we now take for granted.

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19. What might be the significance of the name of the one person mentioned whom the children never meet?

Mrs. JESpers=JESus. The person whom we serve in others. (Curiously, Lydia, the woman helping Mrs. Jespers was the person most like Jesus in the story.)

20. What did Lydia mean when she told the children that they already helped by offering?

Just asking to help confirms my faith that love is right.

21. What is the deeper meaning behind Tommy's realization that "Lydia came through here; there must be a way"?

Jesus came through here; there must be a way.

22. What is the deeper meaning behind the sentence: "All they could do was trust the trail, and what they had been told."

The trail is the truth that God wrote into us.

23. Why might it be that Tommy is Tommy, Mary is Mary, and John is John?

Tommy is the questioner. Mary is compassionate. John is the young one.

24. Why does the story make a point of saying that Georgina Peterson lost flowers?

Flowers come from seeds. And for this reason they are a symbol of the life that God gives us when we too are buried in the ground.

25. Why is it more commendable that children crossed the river with a log?

Unlike rocks that are already laid out for your convenience, you have to find a log and make your bridge.