Willie was very sick. Has anybody here ever been sick? That’s no fun. Willie was so sick that he was in the hospital. Has anybody here ever been in the hospital? That’s no fun, either. Willie had pneumonia, which made it hard to breathe.

While sitting in his hospital bed across from the window, Willie suddenly heard a tap, tap, tap. *(Everybody “tap” on their window).* He knew it was his friend tapping, but he was too sick to get to the window.

The nurse came in just then, and she recognized the tapping immediately. She went to the window to open it just a crack. *(Everybody “open” their window just a little).*

**Let’s Open a Window** *(Pretend to open a window in different ways—get the children involved).*

Opening a window in those days, a long time ago, was hard. Windows were built into the side of the building. In those days, you opened “up” a window. They didn’t open “out” like many windows today. They didn’t slide sideways like some windows today. They were not even wooden shutters like some other windows.

Windows opened “up” because the top part was built into the wall, but the bottom part would slide up over the top part. So, you always opened a window “up.” *(Have the children “open” a window by pushing up).*

When you lowered the bottom part and closed the window, there was a locking thing called a “window sash” on the ledge between the two parts. You turned the lower part of the sash and it rotated into the upper part and locked the window. *(Everybody ‘lock’ a window!)* *(For what follows, have some rope and a weight to make a pretend “window” and have some children try to open it. Or have some children pull each end of a rope to see how hard it is to move the other group of kids).*

Opening “up” the window was not as easy as it sounds. Inside the window casing, attached by a rope and pulley system to the lower part of the window, was a heavy lead weight. When you opened “up” the window, the lead weight fell and made it easier to slide the window up. When you closed the window, you had to pull the lead weight up, even though it was hidden inside the window casing—an almost impossible task for Willie who was only two-and-a-half-year-old and in a hospital bed.

The nurse, who knew Willie’s friend was outside, hurried to open the window, and had the reason for the tapping ready to go. She helped Willie to the window, and his friend,
a squirrel who lived in a tree near the window, grabbed the offered nuts and took off for his tree. Willie and his friend went through this ritual frequently while he was in the hospital.

Boys and girls, just like Willie provided nuts for his squirrel friend, Jesus is our friend. He provides for us. He helps us in hard times. He is always happy when we thank Him for the things He does for us. Let’s thank Jesus right now for always being our friend.