

Behind the Hymn: Jesus Loves Me (Christmas)

On November 3, 2004, I received an e-mail from Dave Leeman. I had met him several years before at the annual Church Music Publishers Association meeting. He was now writing me in his capacity as minister of music at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Plano, Texas. They were using our hymns, including our free Christmas musical, *Infant King*.

As he described their program, he said that he'd like to include something for children. He requested that I write a new text for children using a familiar tune. What tune should be used? His suggestion: "I was thinking of what tune would be most familiar to children, and it is without a doubt, *Jesus Loves Me*."

At first I thought it was a bad idea. The hymn was so well known with its current text that a new Christmas text might be considered in poor taste. But the Lord seemed to check me and press me to think about it. As I did, I realized how useful such a hymn could be for many churches. It would indeed make it easy to involve children in many Christmas services or programs.

That same morning as I took my daily walk at the Kansas City Zoo, the Lord gave me this text.

--Ken Bible

Hymn: [Jesus Loves Me \(Christmas\)](#)