

Along the Road

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“Do you need a little Jesus in your life?” I ask. I watch for opportunities to ask the question, and almost always see the same confused look on each person’s face when I ask it. Then I extend my hand to them, presenting a little rubber figure of smiling Jesus. *“Everybody needs a little Jesus in their life!”* I tell them as I hand it to them. Sometimes someone close by will ask for one too so I always carry extras. Sometimes they say they already have one and I encourage them to pass this one on. I myself have been gifted with a “Little Jesus” as a reminder that someone was praying for me! It’s an easy enough ministry, and God seems to guide me to those who need to receive it. Just over an inch tall, he’s a powerful reminder that Jesus is always there, longing to interact with us right where we are in life.

I was asked why I title my devotional series, *“Along the Road”*. It’s a reference to our road Home to heaven. I believe it’s our mission while traveling this road to be a testament to all we meet, an example of Christ’s love. Everyone wants to know they’re loved, that they matter, that they’ll be remembered. Many feel a void, a yearning in their hearts that they can’t fill... until they recognize it as a “Christ-shaped hole” that only He can fill. St. Augustine said, *“Our hearts are restless until they rest in You.”* When we do, we should not be surprised when our hearts fill with His love until we long to pass it on. I’ve found that the “little Jesus” is a great conversation starter to tell others about His love.

For a long time along my road in life, Jesus was someone I knew about but not someone I knew. There was a turning point in my life when I realized, *truly realized*, what He had done for me, for my salvation. *“All this for me?!”* ran through my head and into my heart. *“I sought the Lord and He heard and He answered.”* (Psalm 34:4) In Bible studies, scriptures, and discussions, I began to see Jesus as “God with skin on”. Because He lived among us as one of us, He’s familiar with everything we go through and loves us with deep compassion. *“We love because He first loved us.”* (1 John 4:19)

In the “Great Commission” (Matthew 28:19-20) Jesus tells the disciples, *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.”* That commission is meant for us too. It can start with simple daily acts of kindness that change us and the world around us into a more perfect place of love. We begin to see life, people, and God differently. The joy and love that lives in us bubbles over, and people notice. They’ll wonder aloud what causes you to be like that... and they’ll want some of whatever it is that gives you so much peace!!

Do you need a little Jesus in your life? If you do, see me. If you need an easy way to witness, get you some “Little Jesus” figures from the Bible bookstore and start passing them out. Or just leave them in places without saying anything. It’s as easy as that.