

## Tug of Love War

The forest animals were at the Picnic of Life. They were having a great time playing, laughing, and eating all the delicious food they had prepared. But soon the sun started to set, a chill set in, and they began to argue about who was the strongest animal.

"God made me the strongest," said the eagle.

"No, He made *me* the strongest," insisted the wolf.

"Can't you see all my muscles?" growled the grizzly bear.

"You all know nothing," retorted the fox. "*I* am the strongest because I am the smartest."

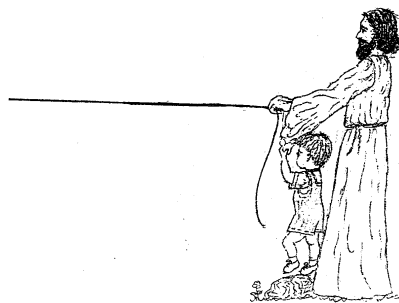
"Let's stop all this quarreling," advised the owl. "Let's have a tug-of-war to see who's the strongest. Someone get a rope."

So two by two, the animals pitted their strength against each other. They tugged on the opposite ends of the rope, until their paws and claws were aching and raw. Finally the winner, the giant grizzly bear, grunted with glee.

Suddenly, a bolt of lightning pierced the sky and a hand reached down from heaven and gently lifted two tiny rabbits from their mother's paws. At the same time they heard a soft voice, no louder than a whispering wind. "These are the strongest of all: newborns and those who are like newborns, who completely depend on their Maker."

There is a tug-of-war that is much more important than any pretend animal or human picnic game. This is the serious and very real tug-of-war with a person on one end of the rope and the devil on the other. Let Jesus be on your side! He's the *only* one strong enough to win the tug-of-love-war over your soul. He, who is God, was the only one good and powerful enough to die for and to save us, and to overpower satan, sin, and death.

Let Him be your soul-muscles. Let *Him* hold unto the rope while *you* hold unto His sleeve, like a child depending on the strength of his parent, or big brother or sister. While He pulls and wins the war, let's just raise our arms in victory, thankfulness and praise!



Jesus said, "I praise You Father, Lord of Heaven and earth, because You have hidden these things from the wise and educated and have revealed them to little children." Matthew 11:25 NIV

"The Spirit Himself joins with our spirits to say that we are God's children. And with that Spirit we say, Father, dear Father." Romans 8:15 & 16. ICB

"I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of Heaven." Matthew 18:3 NIV

