

Treasures of the Kingdom

Casting Up a Highway for the Children of This Generation

Wilma Wise and Flossy Foolish
The Invitation

Dear girls. I want you to light the candles at my wedding. Here are your dresses. Be sure to see if they fit! Be ready to meet us at 10:00. Love, Uncle Jim

I wanted to be a flower girl.

Just think - we get to be in a wedding!

Let's try them on!

It's not for a whole month.

What about gifts?

Uncle Jim likes my paintings.

I can sew...

What would be a nice gift?

How about a set of napkins?

I'll have to cut another one - this one has spots!

Aren't you coming?

Have you tried on your dress, Flossy?

These paints are dried up. I'll just draw something.

I have three more napkins to stitch.

Maybe later...

And so the weeks went by. At last the morning of the great day arrived...

Girls, are you dressed? It's nearly time to go!

I can't find a frame for my picture.

I'm dressed and my gift is wrapped.

Time to go!

I can't wait!

I'm not going!

Why wasn't Flossy ready? What should she have done differently?

Jesus has invited us to his wedding - read Matt. 22&25

*Therefore be ye also ready...
Matt. 24:44*



A Move to Pleasant Palace

"I don't like moving," Ted said, staring at the piles of boxes on his bedroom floor. "Do I have to pack the explorer books that I got for my birthday?" He was nine now and loved to read.

"How else will they get to our new house?" Dad asked with a smile. "I know moving is a lot of work, but we needed a more affordable place to live."

Ted sighed and began pulling books off his shelf.

"The Lord really blessed us with finding an apartment near Dad's work," said Mom. "Let's focus on the good things about this move."

"Like bunk beds in our new room!" said seven-year-old Beth, skipping through the doorway. "Can I have curtains around my bed like a princess?" She wrapped a silky scarf around her shoulders and tried to twirl. Instead she tripped over a pile of books and landed in a heap, laughing.

"Just look what you did!" Ted scolded. "I don't want Beth in my room if she's going to mess everything up. Besides, I want the bottom bunk."

Dad sat on the bed and pulled Ted and Beth near to him. "Moving will bring a lot of changes for us all," he said, looking from one to the other. "I'm counting on you two to be my big helpers. Let's pray that you can get along and think about others before yourselves." He looked into their eyes seriously and then bowed his head.

Ted added his own prayer after Dad's. "Help me to like moving and to be helpful

even when I don't feel like it."

"Amen," Mom agreed with a smile. "We'll need everyone's help with the new baby coming. Beth, why don't you play with Adam now? He's up from his nap and needs to be kept out of mischief."



The next few days were busy ones. The shelves and closets were emptied into boxes and bags. Soon the rooms were looking empty and the living room was piled high.

"Where are my doll's clothes?" Beth asked, digging through a pile of bags marked BABY, ADAM, and TOWELS. "Gertrude needs her coat."

"I can't find my Lego set, either," said Ted from the easy chair.

"You'll have to wait until we unpack," Mom said with a tired smile. "I'm looking forward to getting moved in, too. This packing has worn me out!"

"Tomorrow we're taking everything to the new place," Dad said. "And guess what?" He swung Adam high in the air and looked at his two oldest. "Auntie Ruth is coming to stay a week to help us settle in."

"Yippee!" said Beth. "That will be lots of fun!"

"When will she get here?" asked Ted, tossing down his book.

"Friday afternoon," Dad said. "For now, let's get dinner on. Mom needs a break."

"Auntie! Come and see our new room!" Beth said, leading the way through the maze



of boxes in their new apartment.

"So this is your bunk bed," Auntie Ruth said with a smile. "Who gets the top?"

"Me!" Beth said, climbing up. "I'm the princess in the top of the tower and Ted is the knight who fights off the attackers."

"Is that right?" Auntie asked, laughing.

"Well, I said that I needed to be on the bottom so I could defend her," Ted admitted. "Dad says we need to learn to share a room so we can practice being kind to each other."

"That's right," Auntie agreed. "I always shared a room with your mom when we were growing up. Where is Adam going to sleep?"

"In Mom and Dad's room until the new baby is born," Beth said. "But I think he'll mess everything up."

"Especially my Lego models," Ted said. "Want to see them? They should be in one of these boxes."

"Not yet," Auntie Ruth said. "Let's save that for tomorrow. I need to see what your mom has planned for dinner."

"Dad ordered pizza for tonight," Ted said quickly. "Maybe we can play my new Twister game." He pulled out the box and Beth scrambled down from her bed.

"Let's first set the table and make up a salad," Auntie suggested, putting on an apron. "We can make our work fun, too. Ted, you can clean off the table while Beth helps with the salad."

"Cleaning up isn't fun," Ted said with a frown. "We've been doing it all week!"

"Packing, you mean," Beth said, bringing a stool to the sink. "You didn't clean



much of anything!"

"I did, too! Dad made me -"

"There's plenty of work to do without arguing about it," Mom interrupted from the hallway. "Can Adam help in here? He needs something to do."

"He can help wash lettuce," Auntie agreed. "Come, Adam. Let's wash our hands!"

"But lettuce was my job," Beth grumbled.

"Well, little princess," Auntie Ruth said, "the fun of it comes when we have more of us. I think this is rather like a palace that we must get ready for the king before he returns."

"Is the king our Dad?" asked Beth.

"Yes, he will be the King of Kindness," agreed Auntie. "And there is the Queen of Quietness, and the Knight of..."

"The Knight of niceness," said Beth.

"Niceness isn't a word," said Ted.

"What about Nobility," suggested Auntie. "To be noble is to be respected

for good character."

Ted stood taller. "That sounds good!"

"What about me?" asked Beth.

"You could be the Princess of Peace... or patience."

"I like peace better," said Beth. "I don't like to wait for things!"

"To be a peaceful princess, you'll have to consider how to help others be happy," reminded Auntie. "I think Adam will be Prince Helper. Just see how good a job he's doing with the lettuce!"

"Good boy," Beth said sweetly. "Can I cut up the carrots, Auntie?"

"Surely," said Auntie



Ruth. "And our Noble Knight looks about ready for setting the table. Hmmm, did the dishes get unpacked?"

"Daddy's back!" Beth said, jumping down from her stool.

"Daddy!" echoed Adam, waving a lettuce leaf.

"The King of Kindness," reminded Ted, opening the door.

"I brought some paper plates and cups so we won't have so many dishes," said Dad, coming through the door, his arms full of groceries.

"That was very thoughtful," said Auntie Ruth, taking the grocery bag.

"Yum, tangerines!" said Ted. "My favorite!"

"I think your dad is very kind," agreed Auntie. "And I have some very fine helpers in the kitchen tonight. As soon as the pizza is cooked we should be ready to eat!"

"Wonderful," said Dad.

"It is really a palace and you are the king," said Beth, swinging around his leg. "And Mom is the Queen of Quietness and I'm the Princess of Peace and Ted is the Knight Nob—actually, I don't remember—and Adam is the kitchen helper."

"The Noble Knight and the Prince Helper," put in Auntie.

"Well, then, palace helpers, let's get back to work!"

"This will surely be a pleasant palace to live in," Dad said with a grin. "Let me go see how my queen fares tonight." He disappeared down the hall as the kitchen returned to activity.

"Auntie, Ted isn't setting the table!" Beth said. "You aren't suppose to eat the tangerines! Those are for after dinner."

"Who says?" Ted said.

"Well Dad got them for us to share,

and if you eat one now you aren't sharing," said Beth.

"One important thing to remember about this palace is to watch out for invaders," said Auntie Ruth. "I think I've spotted one already."

"What are invaders?" asked Beth.

"The selfish monster is one," Auntie said in a whisper. "It is very sneaky and gets stronger every time someone uses an angry voice or demands their own way. I hope no one will get caught by him because he stuffs them in his bag of bad attitudes. It's really a terrible place to be."

Ted looked at Beth and then down at his tangerine. "I'll share with you," Ted said, giving

her a piece.

"Me!" said Adam, from his perch at the sink. Ted popped a piece in his mouth.

"That was a very good attack on the monster, Noble Knight," Auntie said with a smile. "I think he just about melted!"

"He melts when we are nice," added Beth. "Shall I put the salad dressing on the table, Auntie?"

"Yes, and put these extra carrots away, too. Ted, please put Adam in his high chair while I cut the pizza. Are the cups out?"

"I'll get them!" Beth offered, shoving the vegetable bin closed.

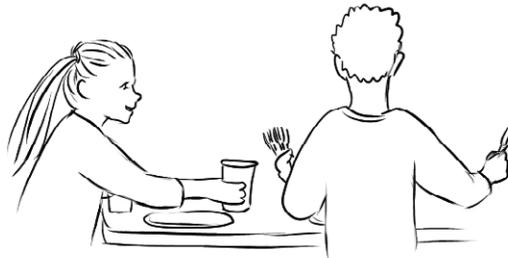
"Here they are in this bag," Ted offered. "Dad even got plastic forks." In less than a minute the table was set.

"Very good," said Auntie. "Now it is time to

call your parents for dinner. But remember, no yelling."

"Or else the monsters will come!" added Beth.

"I'll go knock on their door," Ted offered. "I'll invite the king and queen to come to the table for a Pleasant Palace Pizza Party!"



How Can I Please Jesus?

Amy wanted to do right. She knew God loved her. He had forgiven her from her sins and had made her very happy. Now she wanted to please Jesus every day. But sometimes Amy felt selfish and grouchy. What should she do then?

One morning Amy was reading about how Jesus took the children on His lap. "I wish I could sit there, too," she thought. Then she remembered that God is everywhere and we can hear His voice when we get still. So Amy found a quiet corner in the room where the sun was shining warm through the window. It was like Jesus' loving smile. Amy smiled, too. "Jesus wants me for a sunbeam," she thought. "God's love is like the bright sun. It chases away everything cold and mean and bad! How can I be a sunbeam for Him?"



As Amy sat there, thinking, Jesus whispered to her heart. "Do you see something that you can do with Love?" Amy saw the dirty clothes on the floor. And she remembered that she was supposed to empty the dishwasher. "What if you do it without being reminded?" Jesus whispered. Amy hurried to do her best. "Maybe no one will notice, but I'll hang up my clothes, too," she thought. She knew she was pleasing Jesus. She could hear Him whisper: "Good work! Now let's look around for other ways we can help." Amy smiled. She was on Jesus' sunshine team!



There was a lot of work to do that morning. After breakfast Mom told Amy to wash the dishes. It wasn't her usual job, but she hurried to do it anyway. "I love Jesus, this He knows, For my life, it tells Him so!" she sang. Then the baby was fussy, right when Amy was trying to read. "Here is another place to fill with my Love!" Jesus whispered. Soon Jesus' sunshine plan was working. Mom was smiling because Amy was so helpful. The baby giggled as Amy popped up behind her book: "peek-a-boo!" The house was a happy place to be!

After awhile Amy started to feel tired. She wished she could play outside but Mom told her to write a thank-you note. Oh, no! A frown came upon her lips. "I don't know what to say!" she complained. "Maybe you should ask God to help you be thankful," said Mom. Suddenly Amy remembered. Oh, no! She wasn't being a sunbeam at all. Was Jesus frowning at her? No, she heard Him calling to her heart, "Come to Me! I will give you rest."

Amy hurried to her quiet corner on Jesus' lap. She told him all about the thank-you note. "I can't do it," she said. "You are hiding in the shadows of selfishness," Jesus whispered to her heart. "You can't be happy that way. Come to Me and I can give you more of My sunshine of Love. Then we can go write that thank-you note together!" Slowly Amy smiled again. Jesus would help her. She would be a sunbeam with Him!





Your family is driving down the highway and Dad says, "We're running low on gas." What does that mean? It is time to fill up at a gas station! "There's one!" you say, pointing ahead. Dad turns off on the exit and drives over to the station pump. Soon gasoline is filling up the tank and the car is ready to drive again.

Filling up

To fill up a car with gas you have to turn off the motor and pay for the gas you need. What about filling up with God's love? Can you do that while you are running around? No. You must stop, "turn off" your brain motor, and pay to fill up. Pay? That's right. Filling your love-tank doesn't cost money, but you do have to give up your own plans and attitudes. You have to say, "I don't feel like being kind, but I want help!" Does that sound expensive? It is worth it, to have a full tank of love!

Power on the Highway

Are you going to heaven on God's highway? Just like a car needs gas in its tank to keep running, so we need God's love in our hearts. When our heart-tank is full, we are ready to obey and be helpful. We are thankful and cheerful. It is easy to drive up the hills of trouble, because we know God is there to help us. But we can't keep going forever. After awhile our love-tank gets low.

End

Love is low!

What happens if a car runs out of gas? It won't go any more. And when people try to live for God without love in their hearts it doesn't work either. Soon they are stranded on the side of the road! How do you know when your love is getting low? Do you feel grouchy? Are you bothered or afraid? Do unkind words want to come out of your lips? These are signs that love is getting low. It's time to stop what you are doing and ask God to fill you up!

Start



I Cried Out Unto Thee



**“O Lord my God, I cried out unto thee and thou hast healed me.”
Psalm 30:2**

It was November 2008 when my parents noticed that I was not well. It wasn't usual for me to be pale and drowsy. But now I had dark circles under my eyes, even though I hadn't gone to bed late. My parents were worried and decided to take me to the doctor. I was afraid I might have an

illness. But I put my trust in God. He took my fear away, replacing it with His peace.

We visited the doctor in January. The doctor said that I should have a blood test. Soon we learned that I had a thyroid problem. “I recommend that you go to this specialist I know,” the doctor told us. Then my parents remembered about a natural doctor who was a Christian. “We will schedule an appointment with him,” they said.

The next week my mommy and I went. The workers welcomed us and we filled out some papers. Then I was examined and the doctor suggested some supplements for me to use. Mommy bought some from him and we thanked him. “We'll schedule a follow-up visit in a month, to see how you are doing,” he told me.

The next month my thyroid issue was the same. Nothing had changed. I took the supplements and was careful of the food I ate, but I still didn't have much energy. We kept praying. The spring went by. Summer came and I wasn't any better.

It was September, and time for a follow up appointment again. I was nervous when I entered the doctor's office. What would he tell me? While the doctor was examining me, I was praying quietly. Would our prayers be answered this time? Then I heard the doctor say, “Your thyroid issue is better.” I rejoiced in my heart! I knew God was the one who had healed me, not just the doctor's remedies.

Have you been sick or had problems? God has good for you! Here are some more treasure from trouble that other children have found! Do you believe that God is able to help you, too?

Buried Treasures

I HOPE WE CAN PRINT
YOUR STORY
NEXT!

Do you have an experience to tell?
Just write or call me at 503-769-7567 &
I will help you write it up! - Miss Laura

Love
Courage
Gentleness
Trust
Kindness
Faith



Isn't the Lord good? He doesn't make our trials harder than we can bear. I learned many things in this time of being ill. I had to have self control when I couldn't eat and do things like everyone else. I put my faith in God and learned to trust Him when it didn't seem like anything would change. Are you going through a trial? Spiritually or physically? Trust in God. Have faith in Him and He will sustain you and provide all your needs.

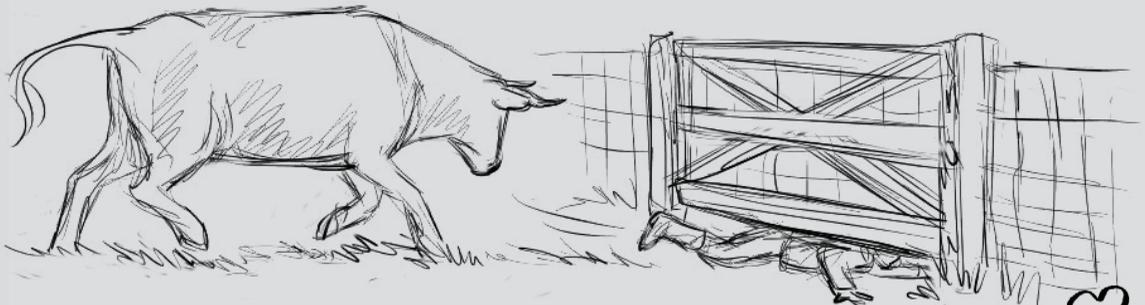
—Hannah E. Clark, age 11



Editor's Note: God wants to be our Healer in every area of life. He knows all about the temporal needs of our bodies—and the eternal needs of our souls. That is why the Lord wants us to bring all our pain and sorrow to Him. He wants us to find our comfort in His love and care for us. If we put our hope in human doctors or remedies, God is not able to bless us like He desires to. Look at the unfailing power and mercy of Jesus, who suffered to set us free from our all fears. Let Him turn your sorrow into joy!

A NARROW ESCAPE

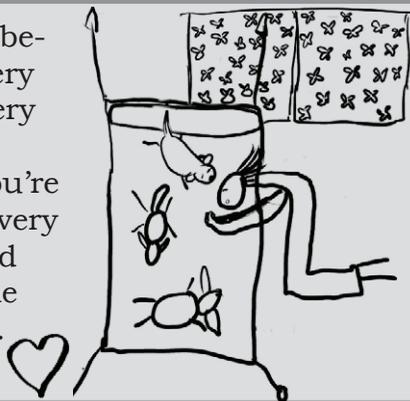
One time I got permission to hunt in our neighbor's field. There was a herd of young cows, but I didn't think they would bother me. But then some big cows came toward me across the field. I started running back to the fence. It was about 200 yards away. They all started rushing toward me, trying to trap me at a muddy creek. I made it to the fence, but I didn't have time to unlock the gate. So I tossed my gun through and squeezed under it. There was one cow with horns that was almost a foot behind me. I was thankful that the Lord didn't let them stomp all over me! - Jason, age 11



My TRIAL

The other day I was really stressed because our day-care girl wasn't being very nice. I guess we were both not being very nice. She was doing something I didn't like, so I told her to stop. She said, "You're not the parent, and that's that!" I was very mad. I went off to my room to pray, and God helped me. He helped me to buckle down and realize that I'm not the boss.

- AutumnGrace, age 8



Love

Courage

Gentleness

Trust

Kindness

Faith

The Time Mama Forgot

One cold evening, after church, Aleah went sliding on the ice with her friends. After awhile her family had to go home. When they were in the car, Mama asked her a question. "What was the project supposed to be for this week?"

Aleah's mind was so filled with sliding on the ice, that she didn't know what to say. Her mind tried to go back to a couple hours before. *I can't remember what we decided. Let me think.* Aleah suddenly remembered. "Oh, now I remember," Aleah said. "I think we were suppose to make a house, or cut out a house, and maybe with Jesus knocking at the door."

"Oh, okay," said Mama. "That will be a good project."

"Oh, Mama, I think we were suppose to memorize the verse, too," Aleah said.

Soon Mama was talking to Papa about other things and she forgot all about it. They were almost home when she turned around and said, "Aleah, what was the project again? I forgot."

Aleah started to feel grumbly inside. Aleah thought in her mind, *I don't like to have to explain long stories!* But as soon as Aleah decided to tell her, Mama said, "Oh, now I remember!"

Aleah felt better that she didn't have to explain it all over again. But then, suddenly, Aleah didn't feel right. *I shouldn't have grumbled at her,* Aleah thought. Then she thought, *I forget things, too. And I don't like it when people get mad at me.* And then Aleah knew she needed to apologize that night.

When they got home, it was late, but Aleah talked to Mama first. "When you forgot the project, I got really mad in my mind," Aleah told Mama. "I'm sorry. Will you please forgive me?"

Then Mama said, "Yes, I forgive you." And she gave Aleah a hug and said, "Get ready for bed." Aleah went to bed feeling happy that Mama had forgiven her. - Aleah, age 10



Patience
Meekness
Truth
Goodness
Peace
Joy

Do you have a place for prayer?

Whether our needs are big or small, God cares about them. He loves us and wants us to come to Him and ask for His help. And when we love each other, we want to pray for one another.

A Place for Prayer

Samson (age 17) and Mwikali (age 16) live in Kibwezi, Kenya. Last year their guardians died and they now live with some elderly relatives. They are very poor, but they want to go to school to learn skills so they can be useful. Please pray that God will supply their needs for education.



I want to ask for God's help with my spelling tests. I don't like to do them over again, and it is hard when I get a lot wrong. I need God's help to remember how they are spelled. I need prayer because I need to catch up with my work. Also pray that I can do better with my bathroom clean up - Anna, age 7



I need God's help to do my living room clean up quickly and cheerfully. - Emmaline, age 5

The Lawrence family is making a home in Makindu, Kenya, for children that have no parents to care for them. Please pray that beds, food, and other supplies will be provided. Most of all, pray that these dear orphans will be blessed to know how much God cares about them. He has promised to be the helper of the poor and fatherless. (Psalms 10:14)



Part of my family is going on a plane trip in May. Please pray that we will be safe, and edifying to one another.

I'm thankful that God protected us from some pit bulls when we were walking. I was very scared, but God helped us to have faith in Him. - Brooke Aleah, age 10

If we love and obey God, we know He will hear and answer our prayers. What needs do you have? If you want to share them, we can all ask God for help! And if God has answered a request for you, please tell us about it!



What My Friend Can Do

Do you have a friend that can do anything? I do.

There is nothing too hard for Him! It is wonderful to ask for His help whenever we get into problems.

The other day my sister was showing a young girl how to use our serger. "How do you thread this?" she asked me. "I left the instruction manual at home."

I went over to help, but no matter how we tried we couldn't make it work. "This button is supposed to pop in," I said. "I know it is really simple, but why isn't it working?" We turned knobs and moved switches,

but still nothing worked.

Our young friend tried to be helpful. "Doesn't your mom know how?" she asked. "I think she's forgotten," I said. "I guess we'll have to wait until we can get the instruction manual."

Suddenly she smiled. "God knows how! He is like a big instruction manual, because He knows everything."

"That's right!" we agreed. "Let's ask Him to show us what to do." And do you know what? In less than a minute God helped us to find the solution. I turned a knob and suddenly the button popped in and everything worked just right!

"Thank you, Lord, for helping us," my sister said, and we all smiled happily.

Do you have a problem that you can't solve? Remember, God wants to be your Friend and Helper. If there is something you need, Jesus said, "Ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full." (John 16:24)



GOD'S ANSWERS

God always gives what is good for us. It may not be what we think, but He always knows what is best. Sometimes He takes away problems and sometimes He helps us to conquer the trouble. Match these problems with the answers God gave. Read the Bible verses to see if you are right!

How many more answers can you think of? God can solve anything! Don't you think He is the best Friend anyone can have?

-hungry crowd

Exodus
2:6



-discouraged prophet



-scary giant



-baby in danger

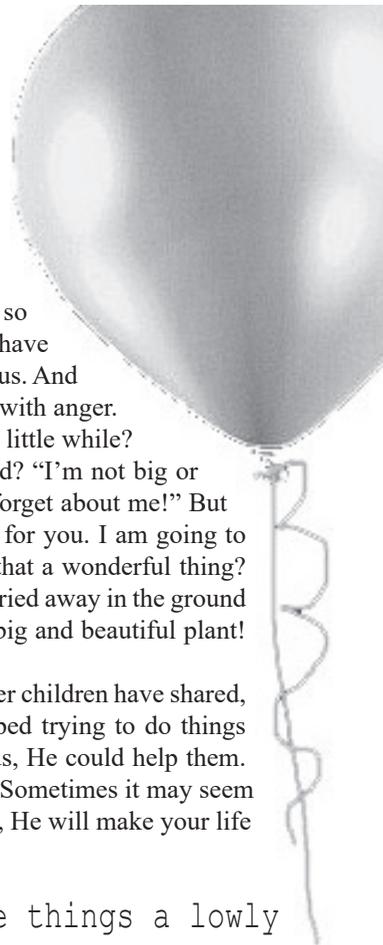


-withered hand

1 Kings
19:13



Think About It: Whom Does God Help?



I like to read about all the ways God has helped people, don't you? It is exciting to see what God can do! Do you want God to be your helper, too? There is one thing you need. It is a lowly heart.

A lowly heart? What's that? Think about the word "lowly" and maybe you can guess. If something is low, it isn't high, is it? Lowly also means "not big and important." Hmm, that's the hard part. You want to be big and important. It is not easy to say "I am small and needy. I need help!"

Think about this balloon for a moment. It is beautiful, isn't it? But it is so bouncy that you can't hold it close. Besides, it might pop! If we don't want to have a lowly heart, we are the same way. We don't want others to control us or teach us. And inside we are very empty. If someone bothers us too much, we might explode with anger. Is that the life that you want to have? Like a proud balloon that only lasts for a little while?

There is a better way to live. It is the life of the lowly. See this little seed? "I'm not big or important," it might think. "Someone might step on me or forget about me!" But the gardener says, "Trust me, little seed. I have a plan for you. I am going to plant you in my garden and help you to grow!" Isn't that a wonderful thing? The little seed could not grow all by itself. It must be buried away in the ground and then the life inside it will come out and become a big and beautiful plant!

Isn't that much better than a plastic balloon?

And that is what it is like to be lowly in heart. In each of the stories that other children have shared, can you see how God helped them when they were lowly? When they stopped trying to do things their own way, they were being lowly. When they took their problems to Jesus, He could help them.

Sometimes it is hard to do right. But God will help you when you ask Him! Sometimes it may seem that no one notices you or you can't do much. But if you trust and obey God, He will make your life grow into something beautiful!

A promise for the lowly

Do you want God to listen to your prayers? Do you want Him to help you each day? **God gives grace to the lowly.** (Prov.3:34) Grace is the beauty and power of heaven. We all need that! Jesus showed us what grace is like. He made everything beautiful around Him. He healed and helped the needy. He brought smiles and hope to people's faces. "**Come to Me,**" Jesus told those that were weak and worn out. "**I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls.**" (Matt.11:28,29) Aren't you glad Jesus was lowly-hearted? Aren't you glad He wasn't trying to be big and important?

Circle the things a lowly heart will say.

~~**Cross off**~~ the proud words.

 I'm sorry I wasn't being kind.

Don't touch my things!



 How can I help you?

Let's ask Jesus to help us!



 I did better than they did.

I don't have time to pray. I'm busy!



It's a sunny day on the farm! Are you ready to be my helper?

Today we want to get the garden ready for planting, and then we have to fix the pasture fence for our new goats. Spring is a busy time of year!

Why are there leaves all over? you ask, as we carry a rake and shovel over to the garden bed. To grow good vegetables we need to enrich the soil. Last fall we spread manure and leaves to rot during the winter. Now it is time to turn them into the ground with the shovel, like this! You can help rake the soil smooth. *We don't want any weeds or rocks,* you say. *I'm making the ground soft for the seeds to grow!* That's right. The vegetables would have a hard time growing if we didn't get the soil ready first.

At last the garden is all ready. We'll plant lettuce and beets today. Let's space the seeds carefully. We don't want them to be too crowded! *I like tomatoes and peppers,* you say. We can't plant those outside yet, but we can get ready for them. The tomatoes grow well when we put banana peels and egg shells in the holes. Peppers like sulfur from matches. *Matches?* you say. *We can save them when we light candles.* Good idea! It's good we are planning ahead, so we will be ready.

Can we go play now? you ask. First we must work on the fence. What would happen if it isn't ready when the goats come? *They will get out!* you say. *When are you getting them?* Tomorrow, so we'd better hurry! Our job is to inspect for holes and gaps. Goats like to climb and push, so look closely!

Oh, no! This part is broken down. Is that Dad driving down the lane? Let's ask him if we need to buy more fencing. "I'll get a roll in town," Dad says. "We're going to pick up some chicks. Can you get a box ready for them with feed and water dishes? Set up a heat lamp and shredded newspaper, too." Yes... we can do that. We can finish the fencing later.

We have to get ready for lots of things today, you say. *Seeds and goats and chicks, too!* Yes, there is a lot to prepare for, especially in the spring. You know, that is just like life. There are many things you must get ready for when you are young. *Like being responsible for my chores and learning reading and math?* Yes, that's right. But life is more than work and school. Remember how we had to make the ground soft so the seeds will grow? Jesus wants to be the Gardener in your life and grow good things in your heart. Are you ready to trust and obey Him? Maybe you think

reading the Bible and living for God is for adults, but if you wait until you are grown up it might be too late.

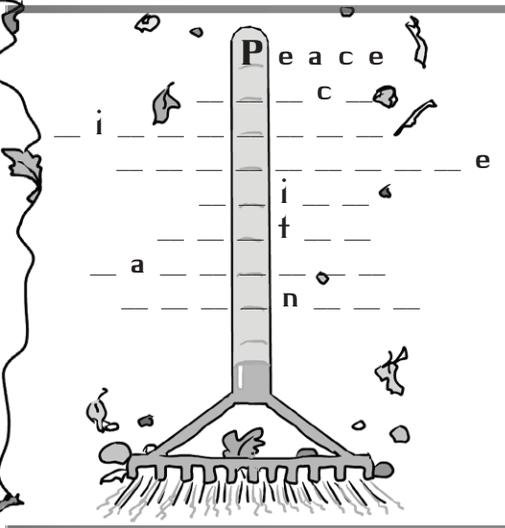
What if we left the garden soil full of rocks and weeds—or never fixed the fence? *We would have problems!* you say. Yes, we know that we have to be ready before the goats and chicks come. Jesus has told us that He coming soon. Do you want to be ready for Him?

Spring: A Time to Be Ready

God wants us to be _____. He will help us if we ask Him! It all starts with

- faith
- patience
- kindness
- diligence
- grace
- virtue
- temperance

Use these words from 1 Peter 1 to finish the puzzle. The word on the handle fills in the blank above.



Let me tell you...

What Lillian Knew

Lillian was a little girl, not quite two years old. She liked her stuffed animals and other toys, but best of all she liked to do things with Mommy. Sometimes they would look at books. Sometimes they would dress Bunny.

Then Mommy would say, "We have work to do now."

Lillian liked to be a helper. When Mommy ironed, Lillian would iron her little dresses with the toy iron Daddy had made. She could set the table for lunch. Then she took out her play food and fed her stuffed animals until it was time to eat.

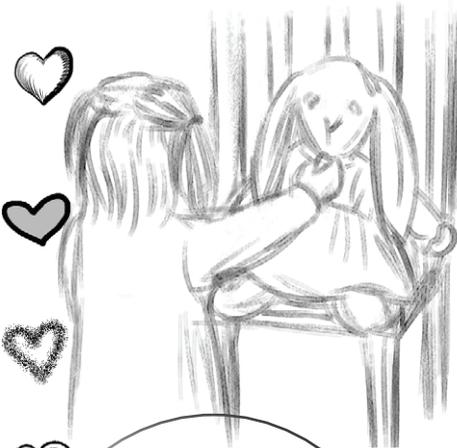
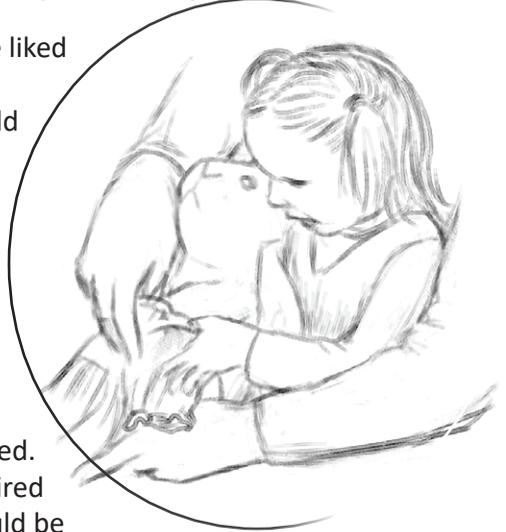
Some days were happy days for Lillian and Mommy. They would laugh and sing songs while they worked.

But other days were hard days. Maybe Mommy was tired and everything would be

late. Then she couldn't pay much attention to Lillian and that would make her feel fretful. She would dump out her toys and make lots of noise. At last Mommy would kneel down next to her. "I know you don't like it, but Mommy is really tired today," she would say. "Let's pray for Jesus to help us." Then they would clasp their hands and bow their heads and Mommy would ask, "Would you please help Mommy and Lillian today?" Mommy would smile and Lillian would know that it would be a better day now.

One morning Lillian was playing with Bunny and Puppy. Mommy was busy in the kitchen, so she gave Lillian some crackers to eat. Lillian set Bunny on a chair and fed her a cracker. Bunny didn't eat it, so Lillian did. Then Bunny was given a drink of juice from her sippy cup. Lillian took a drink. Next she fed a cracker to Puppy, who was sitting on the floor. Lillian ate two more crackers, then looked around. Mommy might want a cracker, too. But where was Mommy? Suddenly a loud noise began in the other room. Mommy was vacuuming.

"Mah-y!" Lillian called. Mommy didn't come. "Mah-y!" she called again. Lillian felt upset. The vacuum cleaner was too loud. She threw down her crackers. Then she pushed Bunny onto the floor and called very loudly, "Mah-y!" Still Mommy didn't come.



Lillian grabbed her cup and went to the doorway. Yes, there Mommy was. But she was busy moving the vacuum cleaner hose back and forth and didn't look up. Lillian ran over and grabbed Mommy's hands. At last Mommy looked up. "Mommy is busy, honey," she said. "You must be a happy girl and play." But Lillian wasn't happy. She set her cup down and bowed her head. Didn't Mommy understand?

"What are you doing, Lillian?" Mommy asked. Lillian got down on her knees and put her hands together. "I see," said Mommy. She dropped the vacuum hose and knelt down beside Lillian. "Please help Mommy and Lillian," she said. "Help Mommy to get the vacuuming done soon."

Mommy smiled and Lillian stood up. She picked up her cup and went to get Bunny. Mommy picked up the vacuum hose and moved it back and forth along the wall. But Lillian didn't mind. She knew everything was all right now. Do you know Lillian's secret for happiness?

- shared by Lillian's mother



♥ I Love Jesus ♥

Sung to the tune of "Jesus Loves Me"

I love Jesus, this He knows
For my life, it tells Him so!
Thoughts and words and actions, too
My love shows by what I do.

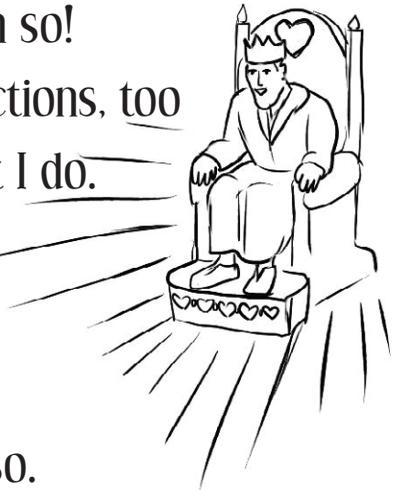
Yes, I love Jesus!

Yes, I love Jesus!

Yes, I love Jesus!

My life, it tells Him so.

shared by the Dysinger family





Dear Reader,

We are so glad to share more of the living power of God! Though it has taken awhile to complete this issue, we know God is never too busy or too late (Psalm 46:1). Thank you to all who have shared their stories and prayer requests with us. We are looking forward to hearing more of what God can do!



Please tell us what God's been doing in your life. Has He answered your prayers? Moms, help your children share their stories. If you don't have time to write, I'd be happy to hear about it by phone. (Call 503-769-7567 and ask for "Miss Laura.")



For older ones who want to be challenged and encouraged in Christian living, *Foundation Truth* is published for youths and adults. Back issues and other literature are available at timelesstruths.org.



We are a God-fearing family that includes Rick and Krista Erickson, and their daughters still at home: Laura, Kara, and Amanda. The publishing of *Treasures of the Kingdom* is mainly done by Laura and Amanda, as we look to the Lord to provide content and direction.



The paper is freely sent to those that request it. You will be kept on our mailing list unless you request otherwise. If the Lord leads you to send anything, please note that since we are not a business we cannot cash checks made out to *Treasures of the Kingdom*.



In the King's service,
The Editors



*Hearts within hearts and hearts on Beth's skirt not included.



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Treasures of the Kingdom

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*How many hearts can you find?
There should be 114* including this one:*



SEND TO: