

# Treasures of the Kingdom

Casting Up a Highway for the Children of This Generation

## A Day to be Happy



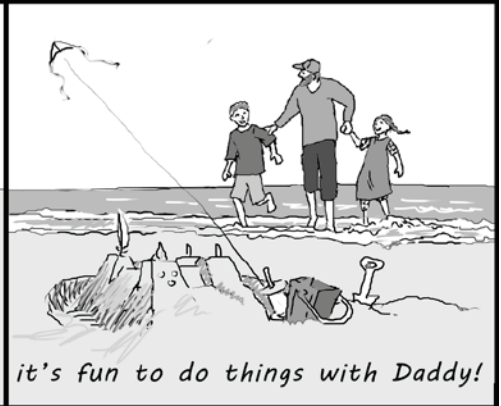
Logan and Emily are glad Daddy is home... and he's taking them to the beach!



Logan tries out his kite...



Emily makes sandcastles...



it's fun to do things with Daddy!



And when there are problems...



Daddy always has better ideas



Now they must leave the fun behind... but they are still happy, because...



# Think About It: The Reason to Rejoice



Do you know that the Bible tells us over 200 times to “rejoice”? That means to be happy, glad, excited, and full of good thoughts and smiles! Just think about it—God wants you to be having a good day today. (Isn’t that a reason to smile?) And I’m sure you want to be happy, too. That’s why you want everything to go your way, right? It is easy to be joyful then... but what about when things are going wrong?

Has anyone ever asked you, “Where’s your smile?” Many things can grab our happiness from us. A bump on the toe... someone taking our stuff... being told “no”... When I don’t feel happy, my lips just don’t curve up. What about you? Even if you do smile, there isn’t any joy inside. After all, what is there to rejoice about?

Ahh, that’s just the treasure hunt we are on right now. There *is* a reason to rejoice, even when everything is going wrong! Look at the cover story again. Logan and Emily were happy... even when their fun ended. Why was that? Yes, because they had a Daddy that loved them.

Does someone love *you*? Maybe you haven’t thought about it, but how many nice things have they done for you today? How many ways have they showed they cared? Did you count two or three... maybe even eight or nine? You might not think that it is so wonderful at first, but just think about what if you *didn’t* have that love. What would your life be like then? Now think about how much you *are* loved and smile. Smile until you feel your heart start to get happy inside. I’m glad that someone loves you right now! Aren’t you?

You see, joy *does* come from getting what you want. Not getting what you think you want (like candy and toys), but what you really want—to be loved. God made you to be loved. And the wonderful thing is, that God loves you and always has. The problem comes when you don’t believe in His love... because of the sin and troubles in your life. Those things become like a wall to keep you from God’s love—and from being able to be really happy. God wants to break down that wall and shine His love into your heart, so that you can rejoice *in Him* always, no matter what goes wrong!



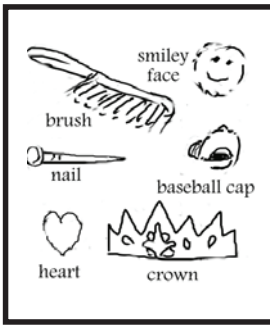
Finish these verses with the letters J, O and Y:

The \_\_\_ \_ \_ \_ f the L\_R D is m\_ strength.

The fruit \_f the Spirit is l\_ ve, \_\_\_ \_ , peace...

The L\_R D...will re\_ \_ ice \_ ver thee with \_\_\_ \_ .

Re\_ \_ ice in the L\_r d alwa\_s!



## CAN YOU FIND GOOD IN THIS TRIAL?

Do you ever have trials? Like, something that isn't working out and is making you feel upset inside? Maybe you have one right now. Do you know that God wants to help you with it? That's why He has given us His Word, the Bible, so we can know what to do. Jeanette found a verse that encouraged her in her trials and wanted to share it with us.

## God's Word in My Life — *Endurance and the Crown of Life*

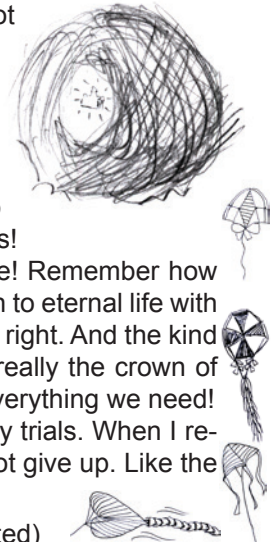
James 1:2 says, "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation (trials): for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life which the Lord hath promised to them that love Him." In this passage the Lord reminded me that we need endurance for our trials. Endurance means not giving up. But if something is really hard, I feel like giving up, don't you? So I must ask God for His strength and endurance, which never runs out.

For each trial I face (sometimes the problem seems like little pesky mosquitoes, and sometimes it feels like a big bear!), God gives me His armor to wear. That's because when trouble is attacking me, I need protection! When I am wearing God's helmet of salvation and breastplate of righteousness, and I am holding up the shield of faith, I can last a lot longer in the fight, don't you think? God also has grace to refresh me so I don't wear out, and His Holy Spirit to comfort and guide me through the hard places. The wonderful thing is that the Lord goes through the trouble with me, so I am never going through it alone. But I have to believe that He is there, even when it feels like He isn't.

You see, sometimes the trials seem like a long dark tunnel that I have to go through. But who is waiting at the other end to give me the crown of life? Jesus! Notice that the crown isn't just a crown of metal and stones, but a crown of life! Remember how Jesus said that He is "the way, the truth, and the life"? That means He is our path to eternal life with God. When we listen and obey Him, He shows us what is really true and right. And the kind of life He gives us is full of rest, peace, and joy forever! So really the crown of life that the Lord has promised us is Jesus Himself, who is everything we need!

I am glad the Lord showed me another way to look at my trials. When I remember this I am encouraged to keep pressing on and to not give up. Like the song says, God can help us be "onward Christian soldiers"!

—Jeanette, a mom (adapted)

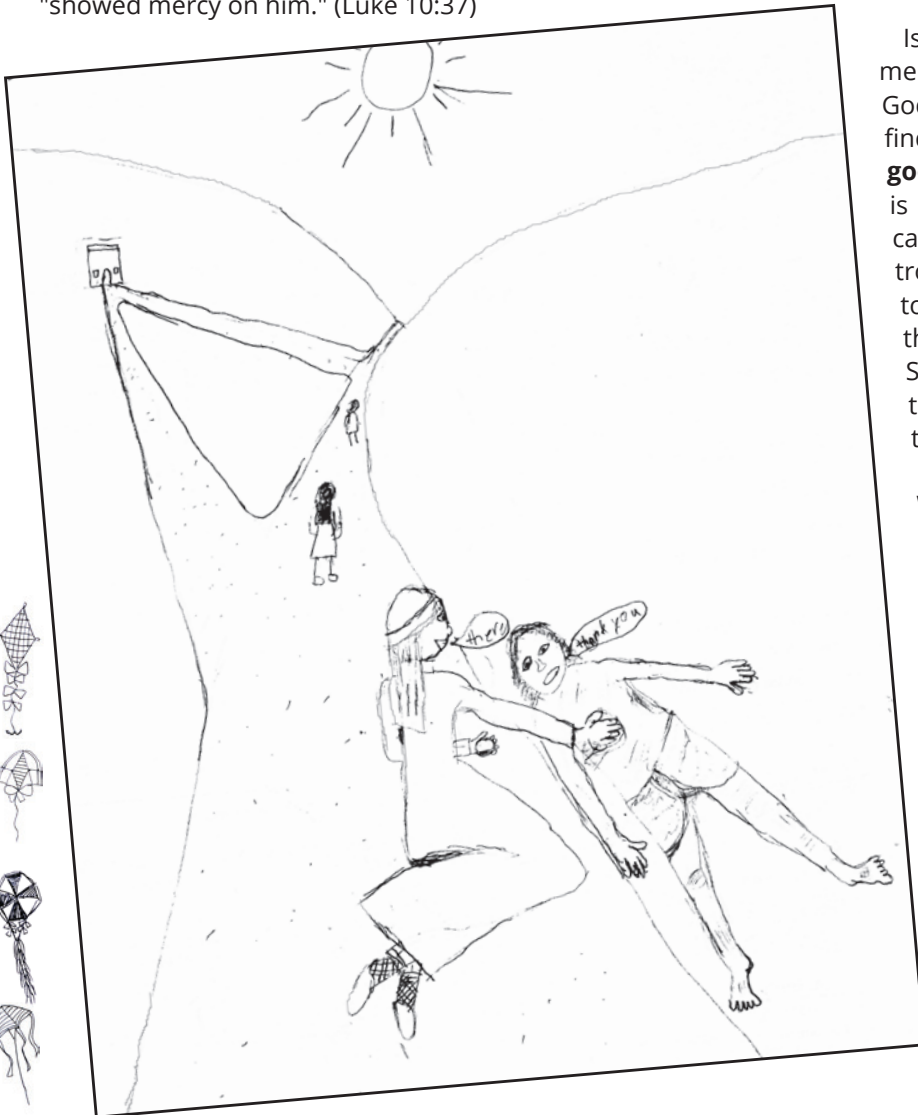


# Picture It! God's Mercy

What is God's Kingdom like? In the Summer issue (#68) we gave you a challenge to draw a picture of one of the parables Jesus told about God's Kingdom. We are so glad that three of you took the time to consider a parable and draw it. Thanks for sharing them with us!

Remember, a parable is a story that shows us every-day examples of something that is important to understand. What was Jesus showing us with these three parables? Let's look at these pictures and see if we can discover the hidden treasures in them!

Each of these pictures shows **someone or something in need**. What are they needing? The lost sheep and the lost coin both need to be found. The man who was robbed needed someone to stop and help him. As the scribe told Jesus, the Samaritan was "a neighbor" to him because he "showed mercy on him." (Luke 10:37)



Is Jesus telling us that mercy is important in God's kingdom? Let's find out. Mercy is **doing good** to someone who is undeserving or has caused us trouble. What trouble has been caused to the shepherd... the woman... and the Samaritan? How are they responding to these needs?

How about us? We all have problems in our lives—and people that cause us problems. **We all need mercy.** Aren't you glad that God delights in mercy? Let's be like Him!

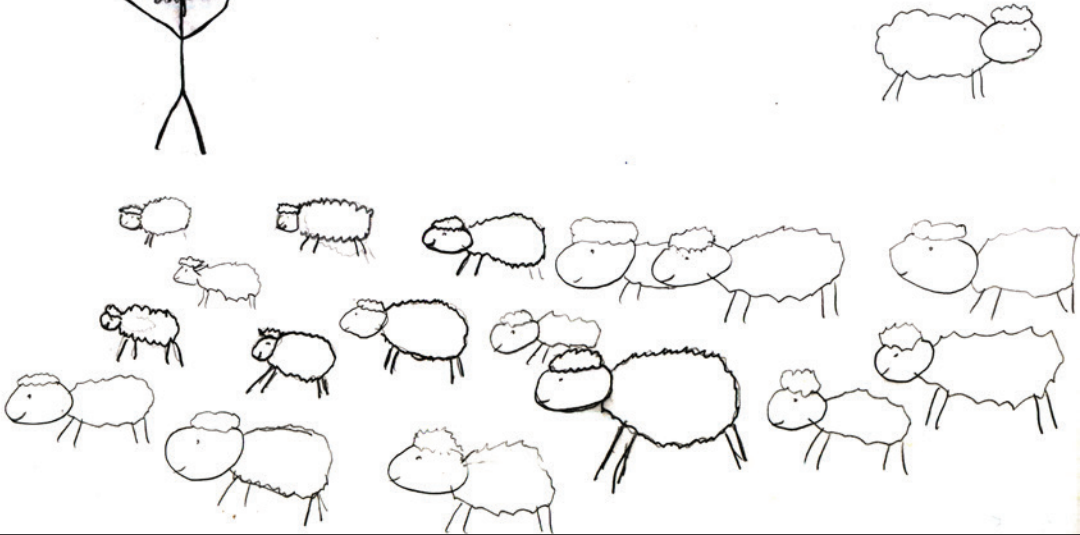


The Good Samaritan  
(Luke 10:25-37)  
—Janita, age 14

## The Lost Sheep (Matthew 18:10-14)

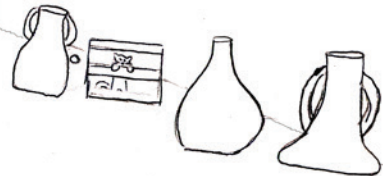
What I learn from this is that God never stops looking for us. When we are lost He helps us find our way again.—Sarah, age 24

Sarah, T



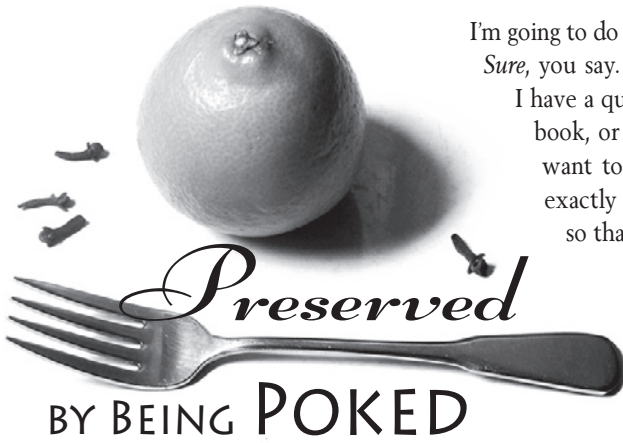
## The Parable of the Lost Coin (Luke 15:8-10)

—Laurie, age 14



If you would like to draw a picture of a parable, or a Bible story that is special to you, please send it by December 31 so we can include it in the Winter 2016 issue!

I'm going to do a fun activity with this orange—do you want to help me? Sure, you say. *I like oranges! Are we going to eat it?* Wait a moment—I have a question to ask you first. Do you have a favorite toy, a new book, or special clothes that you like very much? Yes? Then you want to preserve it from getting ruined, don't you? Well, that's exactly what I want to do with this orange. I want to keep it safe so that we can enjoy it for a long, long time.



*How are you going to do that?* you ask. *Oranges get moldy after awhile.* You are right. If we left this orange to sit on the counter, or even in the refrigerator, it would start to rot. We need to do something to keep this orange from rotting. That's why I have this fork. Do you like to be poked? I don't either.

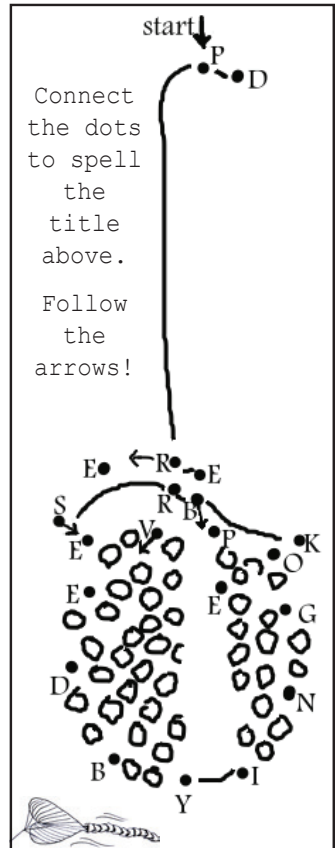
But we are going to poke holes into the orange and fill them up with these little cloves. Like this—see, I made four holes with the fork tines and now I'll press the cloves into them so just their round tops are showing. Ready to help?

*Sure!* you say, taking the fork. *Where do I poke the holes?* All over! You see, cloves are a spice that will preserve the orange from spoiling. *So if we do only one side, the other side will rot?* you ask. That's right, so let's not give up part way. Poke, press. Poke, press. Here's a spot you missed—we don't want the orange to get rotten here, do we? Poke, press. *It looks sort of pretty, like it is covered with little flowers,* you say. That's true. And when we are done, we will dust it all over with more spices and hang it with a ribbon to dry. When we preserve an orange like this, it is called a "pomander ball" and it makes a nice scent wherever you hang it.



You know, there is a Bible verse we can learn while we work. Psalm 145:20 says, "The LORD preserveth all them that love him." As we can see with the orange, being preserved often doesn't feel very comfortable. It feels like pokes and problems in our lives. But if we love the LORD more than ourselves, we will realize that the pokes are the places where God can fill us with His sweet spices. What kind of "cloves" do you think God will put in our hearts to preserve us from "bad attitude rot"? *Patience and love?* you say. Yes, indeed! We all like to be around people with patience and love, gentleness and kindness. It is like a sweet smell, isn't it? But how can we get to be people like that? By being left alone to please ourselves? *No,* you say. *That would make us spoiled rotten.* Right! So instead, God must let the pokes come—like someone ruining your plans, taking your things, telling you to do something that you don't feel like doing... and then, guess what? You have a hole inside you and you feel upset. Like this orange right here. The juice is oozing out of the holes you just made. What should we do? *Fill it with cloves!* you say. Yes, and that's exactly what God can do with our problems.

So if we love the Lord, what will we do when we get poked by a problem? *Ask God for help to have a good attitude,* you say. Yes, and when His goodness fills our hearts, it will keep us sweet, just like this orange. *Hmmm, it smells good! Can I hang it up?* you ask. Yes, let's hang it where we will remember how God can preserve us from selfishness rot!



Berean  
up in  
the tree

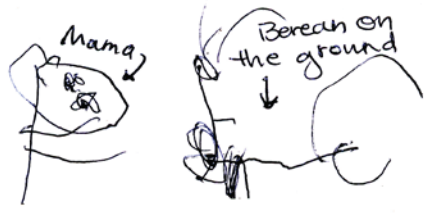


# A Safe Landing

When I was climbing I falled out of the tree.  
I got hurt and Mom comed over and  
picked me up. Her checked my leg  
and see'd if it was broken.

God helped  
me not to  
break my leg.

—Berean, age 4



## How the Lord Helped Me

The Lord has been healing me from my headaches.  
When I eat wheat I get headaches. It was hard for  
me to get off of wheat, because wheat is yummy.  
I have stopped eating wheat because I don't  
like getting headaches. And the Lord has  
been helping me with my school-  
work, because math is my

hardest subject. I went to my room and prayed, and  
came out of my room, and the Lord helped me to  
do my schoolwork without a bad attitude.

—Hannah, age 8



## Buried Treasures



Read  
about what  
other children  
have had trouble  
with—and how God  
has helped them.  
Maybe you don't  
have headaches, or  
climb trees, but I know  
God has a treasure for you!

I HOPE WE CAN PRINT  
YOUR STORY  
NEXT!

Do you have an experience to tell?  
I will send an email notice\* before the  
next issue. I hope to hear from you!

\*email us if you aren't included

Love  
Courage  
Gentleness  
Trust  
Kindness  
Faith

# HOW MAMA GOT RAISED UP

A long time ago my mama was diagnosed with uterine cancer. Now Mama was a woman who really wanted to trust the Lord through the disease. God helped her to not get scared by what the doctors told her. She just started praying and asking God whether she should take medicine or have a surgery to take the tumor out. And God told her, "No, don't take them. Just trust Me."

After the months went by, she started feeling a lot better. She was able to do school with us, and adopt my sister and I. Before we both got adopted, then Mama went to another doctor's appointment and her tumor had shrunk half the size! I had felt like God had healed her cancer.



A year later she was starting to feel very ill. So she had to lay in bed and have quite a few naps. Some of our friends had to watch us. During that time I felt like she was getting worse. A week later she started getting very, very sick. She was at the point that she started dying. I was kind of scared that I might lose my mom. So we were all praying and asking God to raise her up.



And then, a few days later, she started feeling better. And then, all of a sudden, one day later, she started



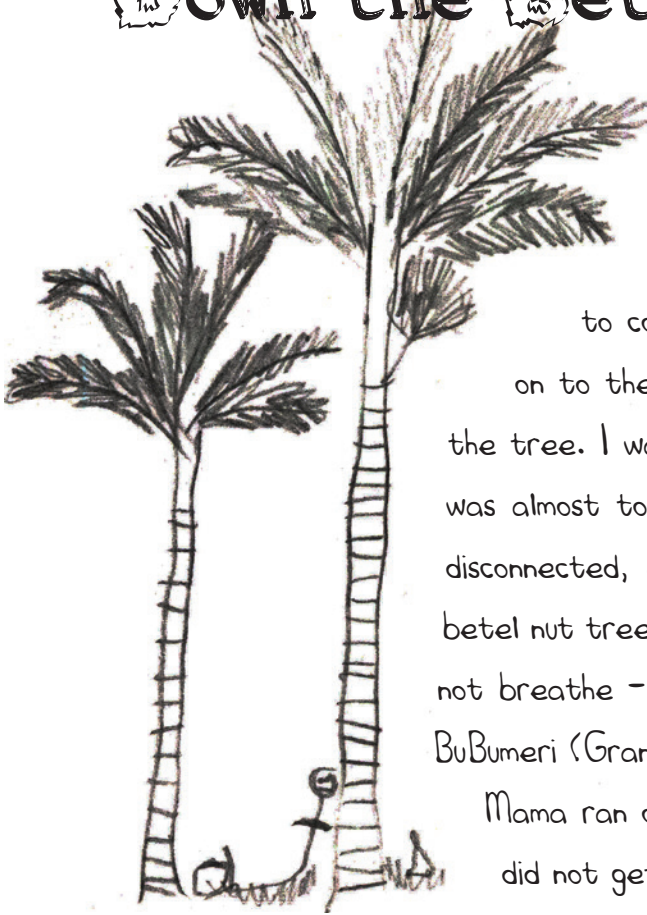
walking from the bathroom all the way to the kitchen table! There was a Scripture that God had put in her mind. That Scripture was: "I am



the Lord that healeth thee." I was so happy! So then we decided to have a song service, just that day. And Mama also told us that the cancer was totally healed! And that is how Mama got raised up!



# Down the Betel Nut Tree



One day I was playing around, and I decided to climb a betel nut tree. I climbed up to the top and I was pulling on a branch that was ready to come off. I came down the tree holding on to the branch which was loosely connected to the tree. I was pulling on it as I was going down and was almost to the ground when the branch suddenly disconnected, and I fell into the trunk of another betel nut tree. It knocked the wind out of me. I could not breathe - it seemed like for a long time. Then BuBumeri (Grandma) and Mama heard me gasping and Mama ran over to help me. I was grateful that I did not get hurt worse. - Judah, age 8



## A Face in Disgrace

*I remember when I got poison oak really bad at one of the camps we had a year ago. My face was hot, itchy, swollen, and oozy. It really humiliated me to look so gross and it taught me some patience, because it lasted so long.*

- Victoria, age 10



Love

Courage

Gentleness

Trust

Kindness

Faith

Patience  
Meekness  
Truth  
Goodness  
Peace  
Joy

*Do you know that God cares?*

*Whether our needs are big or small, God wants us to talk to Him and ask for His help. When good things happen, it pleases God that we are thankful. Let's remember to pray for each other!*

# A Place for Prayer

## REQUESTS AND THANKSGIVINGS



I am thankful that we got our dog, Lucy, back from the pound.—Emily, age 4

I'm thankful that I have loving parents that were willing to adopt me. So I'm thankful that my adoption anniversary day is next month, close to Thanksgiving.—Ellianna, age 8



I'm thankful my kitty is going to have babies. And I have had a lot of fun playing with the last kittens she had. I'm really excited that she will have some more babies. And I'm thankful that when I sell them, the money can be for doll clothes.

And please pray that the wild black cat will go away!



I'm also thankful that I'm learning how to sew. Right now I'm making a quilt. And Judith and I are going to get bunkbeds, so we have to make quilts for them.—Lillian, age 7



I'm thankful for my (stuffed) puppy. I'm glad that I can step over the crack on the deck by myself.—Evangeline, age 2

I am very thankful that Papa and I got our milk stanchion built for our Jersey cow. Please pray that I will be content with God's decisions for our family. I am so thankful that God healed mama's cancer!—AutumnGrace, age 14



I am thankful for God's Love for me! He is always there and He never gives up on me. When it seems like everyone leaves me, He will not! He is a Faithful Lord!—Paulina, age 12



Please pray for the ministry here in India —Pastor Paramjyothi

I'm thankful that my cat is going to have kittens soon (picture on left)—Judith, age 5



# Becky's Bramble

"Joseph and Jessica sat at the lunch table and looked at each other. "Todd's having a bad day," Jessica said with a sigh, as they heard loud wails coming from down the hall.

"I'm really glad he didn't hurt anyone when he threw his truck," added Joseph. He looked down at his little foster brother. "It almost hit Benny in the head!"

"Now Todd's truck is broke," Benny said. "He's mad, 'cause Gampa gave it to him."

"But it was Todd's own fault," put in Jessica. "He's been so mad that he's been breaking things, and that just makes him more mad. I wish..." She sighed again, and then took a bite of sandwich.

Joseph picked up the toy truck and found its missing wheel. "I wish Todd's attitude could be fixed as easily as this," he said, popping the wheel back on.

But Todd's problems weren't so easy to fix. When he came out of his room, he muttered "sorry" to Benny and ate his lunch in gloomy silence.

"I think it's about time we read the next chapter in our story," Mom said, with a smile. "Jessica, can you tell Todd and Benny about Becky's bramble bush?"

"It is a big prickly bush in her yard that causes lots of problems," Jessica said. "And now she's decided she's going to get rid of it. So Mr. Green is taking her to a place that has weed killer."

Benny looked at the picture of the bramble bush and his eyes grew big. "It looks scary!" he said.

That made Todd look, but he didn't act impressed. "I could chop it down with a weed whacker," he boasted. "Its just a bunch of sticks."

"You think you could mow down the brambles behind our fence with a weed whacker?" Joseph asked. "I'd like to see you try!"

"Not now," Mom said with a laugh. "And remember, Becky's bush is really a big, bad attitude that she can't get rid of... sort of like anger inside of us," she said, patting Todd's leg.



## THE GARDEN CENTER IN

Peopleville was full of tools and supplies. “Where’s the weed killer?” Becky asked, looking around. Mr. Green pointed to the man at the counter. “He’ll be able to help you out. He’s a friend of mine and he knows all about gardening.”

“Do you have weed killer?” Becky asked the clerk.

“We certainly do,” the clerk said, with a smile. “What kind of weed are you trying to get rid of?”

“A giant bramble,” Becky said. She saw a weed chart on the counter and pointed. “Like this one.”

“I see,” said the clerk, nodding. “Those are the worst kind around. If you really want to get rid of it, I have something to recommend.” He led the way to a shelf full of bottles and pointed to a gallon jug. “Repentance” it said in big letters. It was really heavy.

“Does it kill brambles?” Becky asked.

“Yes, but with big brambles it is best cut off the branches before spraying,” the clerk said. He read the instructions on the back out loud: “Repeated sprayings may be necessary for deeply rooted plants. For complete eradication, remove the root as soon as the top dies off.”

Becky thought of all the snipping and cutting she had already done. “I’ve tried cutting off the branches, but it just

grows bigger,” she said sadly. “I don’t think I can get rid of it.”

“That’s why we’re here,” the clerk said. He pointed to a big sign written in red letters.



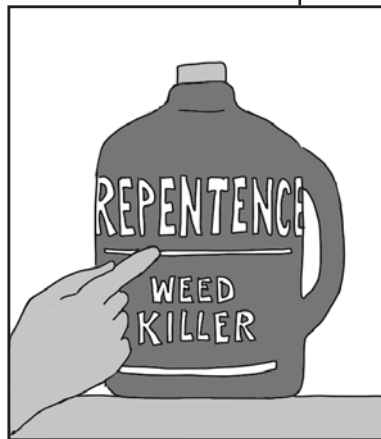
“Best Bramble Removal. Pay all you’ve got. We’ll do the rest,” Becky read aloud. “Is it true? Will you get rid of my bramble for me?” She opened her purse. “I only have three dollars.”

“No one has enough money to pay for the whole job,” the clerk said with a smile. “But getting rid of weeds is so needful in our town that the Master Gardener has offered to cover all expenses.”

“The Master Gardener?” Becky asked. “He must be a nice man.”

“The best,” the clerk agreed. At the counter, he took Becky’s money and handed her a paper and pen. “If you fill out this contract with your name and address, we’ll send one of our workers right over.”

Becky tried to hurry home, but the jug was heavy. She had to stop several times



before she finally reached her gate. The bramble bush looked like a monster swallowing up her house! For a moment she was frightened again. What if the weed killer didn't work?

Becky thought of all the weed thickets in the neighborhood. In fact, only Mr. Green's garden looked really beautiful. "But I want my garden to look like his," Becky told herself. "I don't want that old bramble to ruin my life. Mrs. Wise probably doesn't have weeds in her yard, either."

At last the bramble remover man came down the street. "This house over here!" Becky called, jumping up and waving.

"So you want that big bramble out," he said, pulling on some thick gloves. He had a big hedge cutter and strange backpack, too. When he took Becky's jug, he opened a lid on the top of the pack and poured the liquid inside.

"Is that for spraying on the weed killer?" Becky asked.

"It sure is," the man replied, pulling a mask over his face. "But first we must remove the branches. If you are ready, stand by the house."

Becky obeyed, and watched as the man started his hedge cutter. It made a terrible wailing sound as it cut through the giant bramble stocks. Soon prickly branches were falling all over the yard. It looked like a hurricane had come through! At last only the ugly grey stalk of the bramble was left.

After the man had piled all the branches outside of the gate in a huge heap, he turned on the sprayer. Becky felt tears come to her eyes and her throat began to hurt. Was she getting poisoned? The spray looked just like water, but it certainly made her feel sick!

"Repentance weed killer often causes tears and heaviness in the chest," the man explained when he finished spraying the bramble stalk. "But it is only poisonous to weeds, not people. The bramble should be dead by tomorrow."

The man went out into the street and began burning up the pile of branches with



a torch. As they smoked and crackled in the fire, Becky remembered her terrible dream. But now she didn't need to be afraid of Burning Day, because her bramble was already being burnt up! Becky smiled, and the glow from the fire shone on her face. At last the blaze died down and only ashes were left.



Becky opened her gate and looked back at her empty yard. No bramble monster stared back at her. “Thank you!” she said.

“I’m glad I could help,” the man replied, gathering his supplies.

But Becky had one more question. “Do you have enough killer left if—if I have any more weeds to kill?” she asked. It was hard to imagine that the bramble was actually gone!

“Yes, and there’s always more at the Center... enough to kill all the weeds in Peopleville!” he said, with a grin.



“Then why don’t you?” Becky asked, surprised. “There are so many bad weeds everywhere!”

“Because the people haven’t asked me to,” he said simply. “I only come when they sign a weed-removal contract, like you did.”

Becky smiled. “I’m glad you came,” she said, shaking his hand politely.

“Call us anytime you need help,” he said with a big smile. “We’re here for all your garden needs.”

“I will!” Becky promised.

“You see,” Mom said as she finished telling the story, “God is able to take the bad attitudes out of your heart, just like that man killed Becky’s bramble.” She smiled down at Todd and Benny. “That’s why we are glad to have you in our home, even when you are acting up and causing trouble. We are praying that you will want Jesus to change your hearts.”

“I liked the part about the Repentance weed killer,” said Joseph. “Didn’t Jesus say, ‘repent and believe the gospel?’”

“Yes,” agreed Mom. “We need to be sorry for how we’ve lived before we can get help. To ‘repent’ actually means ‘change your thoughts’—we need God’s help to do that. And the believing part is just as important. After we realize that we have a big problem inside of us, we have to believe that God is able to fix it.”

Benny had wiggled off the couch to play. Now he handed Todd his toy truck. “Joseph fix it,” he said, smiling.

Todd looked surprised. “Thanks,” he muttered. “Sorry for throwing it.”

“Anger is like a bramble—it ruins things,” Mom pointed out. “But Jesus has the power to save us from our sins. Even big sins. We just have to come to Him and ask.”

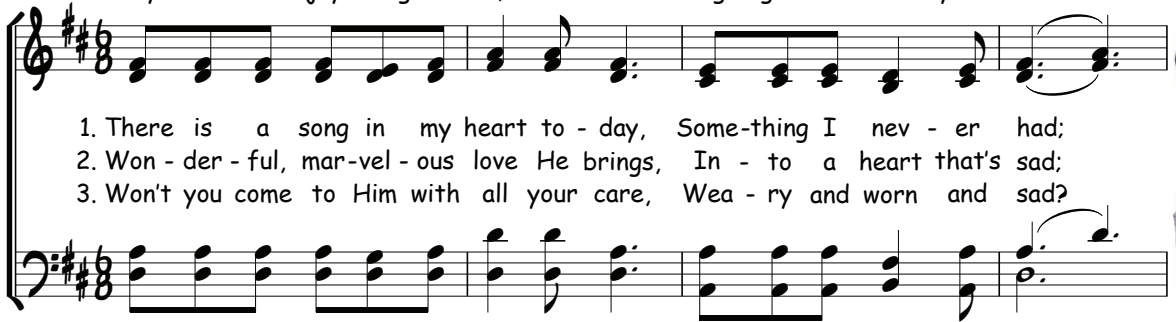
“I wonder what Becky will grow in her garden now that her giant bramble is gone,” Jessica said.

Mom smiled. “That will have to be another story, but I’m sure the Master Gardener has just what she needs to make it beautiful.”



# Oh, Say, But I'm Glad

They shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. Isa. 35:10



1. There is a song in my heart to - day, Some-thing I nev - er had;  
2. Won - der - ful, mar-vel - ous love He brings, In - to a heart that's sad;  
3. Won't you come to Him with all your care, Wea - ry and worn and sad?



Je - sus has ta - ken my sins a - way, Oh, say, but I'm glad.  
Through dark - est tun - nels the soul just sings, Oh, say, but I'm glad.  
You, too, will sing as His love you share, Oh, say, but I'm glad.

*Refrain*



Oh, say, but I'm glad, I'm glad, Oh, say, but I'm glad;



Je - sus has come and my cup's o - ver - run, Oh, say, but I'm glad.





# Treasures of the Kingdom

PO Box 1212, Jefferson, OR 97352

e-mail: [totk@timelesstruths.org](mailto:totk@timelesstruths.org)

website: [totk.timelesstruths.org](http://totk.timelesstruths.org)

Dear Reader,

The Lord has been good to us. We've had plenty of trials—and plenty of blessings and reasons to rejoice! How about you? I hope that you will be encouraged to look for God's goodness today and trust Him with all of your needs.

**Do you have something to share or questions to ask?** We are glad to receive your letters and emails.

For older ones who want to be challenged and encouraged in Christian living, *Foundation Truth* is published for youths and adults. Online issues and other literature are available at [timelesstruths.org](http://timelesstruths.org).

We are a God-fearing family that includes Rick and Krista Erickson, and their daughters: 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

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SEND TO:

*How many kites can you find?  
There should be 96 including this one:*



Number 69		Fall 2015
<i>Comic</i>		1
- A Day to be Happy		
<i>Think About It</i>		2
- The Reason to Rejoice		
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