

The Activity Day Answer

By Rebecca Barnum

(Based on a true story)

Ye receive no witness until after the trial of your faith
(Ether 12:6).

What an awful day! Today at school I didn't talk to anyone, I didn't play with anyone at recess, and I didn't sit with anyone at lunch. My family has been living in this new town for two weeks, and I still don't have any friends!

As I walked up to my new house, I saw my younger sister playing with the girl from across the street. She waved. "Hi, Rosa!"

I turned my head and didn't say anything back. Three girls on our street are the same age as my younger sister. How many girls on our street are my age? None. Not one!

I pushed through the front door and dropped my backpack on the floor.

"Sister Garcia called from the Primary to remind you about activity day today," Mom said.

"I don't want to go to activity day," I grumbled. "I just spent all day with kids I don't know. I don't want to spend another hour with girls I don't know!" Talking to people you don't know might be easy for some people but not for me.

"I know it's been hard moving here and leaving all your old friends," Mom said. "I've been praying that we will make some new friends soon."

"Me too," I said. "I pray for that every night, but so

far Heavenly Father hasn't answered my prayers. It's like He isn't listening."

Mom squeezed my hand. "**Maybe the call from Sister Garcia is your answer,**" she said.

"How can that be the answer to my prayers?" I asked.

"Sometimes when we pray, Heavenly Father expects us to do something to help answer our prayers," Mom said. "It's called acting in faith. We have to do more than just pray. Sometimes we have to act in faith before we get the blessing."

"Could it be possible?" I thought. "Could going to activity day really be the answer to my prayers?"

Later, Mom asked me if I wanted a ride to the activity. I took a deep breath and nodded. Even though I was afraid, it felt like the right thing to do.

My heart was beating fast as we arrived at the



"God will not always reward you immediately according to your desires. Rather, God will respond with what in His eternal plan is best for you."²

Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles



church. Sister Garcia welcomed me and led me to a chair at the table. Her kind voice and warm smile helped me feel better.

A girl across the table looked at me. "Hi, I'm Teresa," she said. "Are you new?"

There was a lump in my throat, so I just nodded.

"I think I've seen you at school," Teresa said. "What class are you in?"

I swallowed nervously. "Mrs. Lee's class," I told her.

"I'm in the class right next door!" she said.

We talked about our classes and our favorite subjects. As we talked, I was surprised at how much we

had in common. We even both liked roller-skating!

When Mom picked me up after the activity, I jumped into the car.

"Mom, can I play with my new friend Teresa?" I waved at Teresa, and she waved back.

Mom thought it was a great idea, and later that evening, my new friend and I roller-skated up and down my street.

That night as I knelt by my bed, I thanked Heavenly Father for answering my prayers. At first I was scared to go to activity day, but I'm glad I did. I'm glad I was brave enough to act in faith. ♦

