



THE SMALL AND SIMPLE INVITATION

At my first school dance, I felt awkward and out of place until I joined a group of friends on the dance floor and started having fun. Then I noticed a boy I knew standing by himself in a corner. He was shy and a little different, so people avoided him. I felt prompted to invite him to dance with us, but I was shy too. Then I remembered how I'd felt at the beginning of the dance.

I asked one of my friends to come with me, and we went to ask the boy to dance with our group. He seemed unsure and said, "I don't know if I can really keep a beat." We replied with a laugh that we couldn't either. He slowly nodded and followed us.

For a few minutes, we were dancing while the boy just stood there. I was starting to doubt whether I'd done the right thing. But then a new song came on, and he smiled. "This is a good one," he said, starting to dance. He was really good! Other people began to notice. Then the boy started break dancing! It was amazing! Soon a whole circle of people stood around him, clapping and smiling. My friend leaned over to me and said, "Look what you started." I grinned and knew we did the right thing. Like Alma 37:6 says, "By small and simple things are great things brought to pass." I am grateful that I had the Holy Ghost as my companion that night.

Kelly D., Maine, USA

FEELING ALONE

It was a cold spring in Denmark. I had just begun my full-time mission, and my testimony was struggling. I was a convert of only 19 months and full of insecurities about facing a foreign country, a language I couldn't speak, and a maze of streets I couldn't fathom navigating. My once gratitude-filled prayers soon became sour accusations: "God, why have you left me all alone?"

One morning I pled with Him in prayer. But instead of asking "why" with anger in my heart, I begged for a witness of the gospel's truth and suppression of my doubts.

After praying, I flipped my scriptures open. I landed on Deuteronomy 31:6: "Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee."

My heart was full of joy as I realized the answer to my prayer: God had been there all along. He was simply waiting for sincere prayer rather than accusations of abandonment.

God will never leave me, even when all seems hopeless. And we can feel His sunshine through prayer and His scriptures.

Clayton E., Texas, USA



GOD GIVES US TOOLS

My uncle is an artist who makes small wooden ships in glass bottles. It takes a lot of time, concentration, and effort to make them.

One day I saw all of his tools and noticed how each tool was used for a specific detail or molding on the ship. As I watched him work, I was surprised by how he would use the tools to make these ships. I was reminded of the story of Nephi building a ship (see 1 Nephi 17–18). He built it

according to the Lord's way, not man's way. God gives us tools to build our own ships in His way. The scriptures, faith, and the love of God are tools that I must use in my own life to carefully construct my own ship without any cracks. I am learning each day to be a disciple of the Lord.

María Mercedes G., Monagas, Venezuela