

A Whisper of Kindness

By Deborah Moore

(Based on a true story)

Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you (Luke 6:27).

Carson is here today,” James’s mom said, pointing to a boy in the hallway by the Primary room.

James groaned. Carson was wearing jeans and an old shirt. James knew his mom and dad would never let *him* wear anything like that to church, but they would never let him get away with a lot of the other things Carson did either.

Last week at school, Carson had been kicked out of class for talking back to the teacher. He always made fun of the way James dressed and gave him a hard time for being the shortest boy at school.

“What if he yells at Sister Win or starts a fight?” James asked.

“I’m sure everything will be fine,” Mom said. “Carson has never been to church, and he’s probably nervous.”

When class started, Sister Win asked who had brought their scriptures. James raised his hand along with the rest of the class, but Carson shook his head. He looked embarrassed, which surprised James. Carson usually made a joke when he didn’t do his homework. But the

more James thought about it, the more he wondered what it would be like to go to a new church for the first time.

Sister Win handed Carson her scriptures to use. When it was Carson’s turn to read a scripture, James began to worry. What if Carson tossed the scriptures on the floor or refused to read?

But Carson didn’t do any of those things. He stared at the words on the page and scowled. After a moment, James realized that Carson couldn’t read very well. James had never noticed this before at school.

What do you think James will do? Will he laugh at Carson? Will he ignore him? What would you do if you were James? Turn the page to find out what happened.

James leaned over to Carson and whispered, "Verily."

Carson looked surprised, but he said the word and continued reading the verse. When he struggled with a word, James helped him with it. At the end of his turn, Carson looked over at James and gave a small nod.

James wasn't sure if things were going to be different at

school after this. The funny thing was that he didn't care. He felt good knowing he had helped a boy who always gave him a hard time, and nobody could take that feeling away. ♦



One day my friends and I were playing a game on the playground when another girl joined us. She was known for bullying other kids and not being very nice. She started changing the rules of the game, and I said, "You can play your way, but

we're going to play the way we like." She looked disappointed and walked away. Afterward I thought about what I had said to the girl. I knew I had hurt her feelings. Later I found her and said, "I'm sorry. I didn't mean that you couldn't play with us." She said it was OK. That girl and I might not be friends, but I think I did what Jesus wanted me to do by being kind to her.

Raegen K., age 9, Utah

KINDNESS CATCHER

1. Cut out the Kindness Catcher from the magazine.
2. Place the printed side down and fold in half so that it forms a triangle.
3. Unfold. Then fold in half the other way.
4. Unfold. The two creases should form an X.
5. Fold each corner of the square into the center of the X. This will form a smaller square.
6. Turn over the Kindness Catcher and fold each corner to the center of the square, just like you did in step five. Your square should have four folded triangles on one side and four diamond flaps on the other side.
7. Fold the Kindness Catcher in half so that the flaps are on the outside.
8. Place your thumbs and forefingers under the flaps and push them to the center.