

PAUL'S SURGERY

What could help Paul feel less nervous?

By Britney Rule

(Based on a true story)

Faith is knowing the Lord will hear my prayers each time I pray (Children's Songbook, 96–97).

After Paul got ready for bed, he sat on Mommy's lap in the rocking chair in his room. Mommy held Paul close as she told him the news. "The doctor says you need to have another surgery on your ears," she said. "He thinks your ears will be all better after that."

Paul fiddled with the buttons on his pajamas. He had had surgery before. The medicine made him feel sick, and he had to wear a big, white bandage around his ears until they healed. With his head bandaged, he couldn't ride his bike or play on the swings. Paul started to worry, but then he had an idea.

"Mommy, can we ask Heavenly Father to bless me?" Paul asked.

"That's a good idea," Mommy said.

They knelt on the floor and Mommy prayed,

"Heavenly Father, please bless Paul that he will be comforted during his surgery. Please guide the doctor's hands so he can help heal Paul. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen."

A warm, peaceful feeling filled Paul up inside. He was still a little nervous, but he knew that he would be safe.

A few days later, Paul went to the hospital for his surgery. He put on a hospital gown and talked to the doctor. Paul liked the way the doctor told him what was going to happen so he wouldn't be as scared. He liked to think of Heavenly Father guiding the doctor's hands to make his ears better. Paul and Mommy said another prayer, and Paul felt the same warm feeling inside. Mommy still looked a little worried.

"It's OK," Paul told her. He gave Mommy a hug. "Remember, we said a prayer."

Mommy smiled at Paul. "You are right. Heavenly Father will bless you."

When Paul woke up from his surgery, Mommy was sitting beside his bed.

"Hello, Mommy," he said sleepily.

Mommy smiled. "Hello, Paul! How do you feel?"

"Pretty good," Paul said. "Are my ears OK?"

"Yes," Mommy said. "Our prayers were answered. The doctor said that everything went well, and your ears will get better."

Paul smiled. "I knew it, Mommy," he said. "Heavenly Father answered our prayers." ♦



Tanner G., age 5, Arizona

One time I was playing with a metal pipe and I stuck it in my toe. My mom took me to the emergency room. As she went to get the papers she needed to fill out, I started praying that I wouldn't be too scared and that I would be OK. Everything turned out OK even though I needed stitches. I know that Heavenly Father answered my prayers. My mom was happy that I chose to go to Heavenly Father for help when I was scared.

Tanner G., age 5, Arizona