

SUPERHERO SERVICE

*Preston vs. The Weeds.
Who will win?*

By Tiffany Gee Lewis

(Based on a true story)

“When we’re helping we’re happy”

(Children’s Songbook, 198).

Tonight for our family home evening activity, we’re going to weed Sister Lee’s garden,” Dad announced at dinner.

Preston liked going to Sister Lee’s house. She had chickens and roosters and yummy berries growing in her garden.

After dinner Preston helped his family load shovels and rakes in the back of the van.

On the drive to Sister Lee’s house, Mom asked, “Why is service so important?”

Preston thought for a moment. He wasn’t quite sure.

“It makes you feel good,” Preston’s older brother said.

“That’s true,” Mom said. “Any other ideas? Does anyone remember the scripture we just memorized together? ‘When ye are in the service of your fellow beings . . .’”

The rest of the family joined in. “Ye are only in the service of your God” (Mosiah 2:17).



“That’s right,” Mom said. “It’s from King Benjamin’s speech to his people. Preston, can you think of any other reasons why we serve?”

Preston thought of the comic book he had read that morning, the one about the boy dressed in a cape, saving the world. Superheroes did good things for other people. “Serving is like being a superhero!” he said.

Dad smiled. “You’re right. It *is* like being a superhero. You’re saving the day when you serve.”



One day a family moved in next door. I wanted to make them feel welcome, so I helped my mom bake some sugar cookies. Then we took them to the family’s house. They were happy to get the cookies. I think welcoming the new neighbors is something Jesus would do. I felt happy too.

Raina K., age 10, Texas, USA

They arrived at Sister Lee’s house. Preston liked the idea of being a superhero. He flew out of the car, grabbed a pair of gloves, and super-sprinted toward the garden.

First Sister Lee showed everyone the new baby chicks. Then the family got to work. There were hundreds and hundreds of weeds. They were the biggest weeds Preston had ever seen!

He imagined those weeds as evil forces, attacking the innocent tomato plants. Using his super strength, it was easy to pull the weeds out of the ground. He could feel his muscles getting stronger as he shook the dirt loose from the roots and threw the weeds in a pile.

Some of the weeds were too tough to pull by hand. Preston pulled out his super-power shovel, the one with the red blade. He jumped on the back with both his feet. The blade sunk deep into the dirt, and weeds came out even faster. The pile of pulled weeds grew until it was almost as tall as Preston!

Finally Sister Lee said, “That’s great! Come pick some berries, and then we’ll have a treat.”

Preston’s superhero strength was almost gone. With the last of his energy, he helped pick gooseberries, raspberries, and currants. Then Sister Lee brought out three different ice-cream flavors. Preston chose chocolate.

They were tired, but Preston felt good inside.

“Thank you so much for your service,” Sister Lee said. “You did in one hour what would have taken me a whole week.”

Preston smiled and licked his ice-cream cone.

Having super powers not only felt great. It tasted great too! ♦

The author lives in Minnesota, USA.

ILLUSTRATION BY ADAM KOFORD



Let’s help Mr. Orr rake his leaves.

Captain Service reporting for duty!

