

RESCUED IN THE FOYER

My husband often has to work on Sundays, leaving me in charge of taking our four sons to church alone. One particular Sunday during sacrament meeting, my two toddlers were at odds with each other. If I got one of the boys interested in a book, his brother wanted it. I tried snacks, toys, and coloring, but nothing worked. I was overwhelmed with my boys, who just couldn't seem to sit quietly for one hour.

I pulled a small toy out of my bag and handed it to my one-year-old. Immediately a scream came from my three-year-old, Tyson, as he pounced on his younger brother, trying to retrieve the toy. I was humiliated as I carried two screaming, fighting little boys out into the foyer.

My face was immediately wet with hot tears. Why did this have to be so hard? I was doing what Heavenly Father wanted me to do by bringing my family to church, right? But I couldn't do it anymore. It was exhausting and embarrassing to fight my boys through sacrament meeting alone every week. I didn't ever want to come back.

I sat with these thoughts for only about 15 seconds, and then a sister who I barely knew came out into the foyer after me. Her name was Sister Beus. She usually sat alone, as her husband served in the bishopric

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ILLUSTRATION BY ALLEN GARRIS

and her children were grown. She said, "You're always here alone! I can see that you're trying so hard. Could Tyson sit with me?" I couldn't even think of a response! I just nodded as she took him by the hand and led him, now calm and happy, back into the chapel.

I wiped away my tears, picked up my baby, and humbly walked back into the chapel to enjoy the rest of the meeting in peace.

The next Sunday as we walked into sacrament meeting, Tyson searched for his new friend. At night he would pray, "Thank you, Heavenly Father, for Sister Beus. I love her so much!"

It's been over three years, and Tyson still often searches the chapel for Sister Beus. Last year she was called to be Tyson's Primary teacher. He was the happiest little boy alive.

I am so grateful for Sister Beus and her willingness to love and serve others. I know that we can bless the lives of others when we serve as the Savior did. ■

Kristi Lewis, Utah, USA

DONE!

During my interviews as a bishop one Sunday afternoon, I had the pleasure of sitting down with a good friend to talk about some challenges he was facing. After listening to his concerns for a few minutes, I felt that what he needed was consistency in reading the scriptures. I was also reminded that, as his bishop, I too should be more constant in my scripture study, which was something I had been struggling with. So I suggested that we become "accountability partners" in striving to study more consistently.

Every day after we finished reading our scriptures, we would text each other the word *Done!* Knowing that someone else was waiting to hear whether or not the other had completed his reading for the day was a great motivation for the both of us. If one of us forgot, receiving a text was a reminder. If the other person did not text, he wasn't called out on it. We let each other take this challenge on without making the other person feel guilty.

We started the challenge six months ago now, and I don't recall

a day that we have missed reading our scriptures. This brother stood up during fast and testimony meeting a couple of months ago and shared his testimony of the positive impact that daily scripture study was having on him and his family.

I am grateful for this brother and his friendship, as well as his daily texts. I have seen how technology, when used properly, can enhance our lives. I'm also thankful for the scriptures and how they testify of Christ. I know that the Savior's atoning sacrifice makes it possible for each of us to return to live with Him someday. ■

Alex Whibley, British Columbia, Canada

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