

McGee and Me - 2

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and your staff, they comfort me. Psalm 23:1-2 NIV

A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. Jesus said, "You go, and do likewise." Luke 10:30, 33 ESV

Twister and Shout - When Nick's sister was in charge of watching Nick and his friends the weather turned unexpectedly dangerous. The parents were a hundred miles away at a banquet and wanted to warn their children, but the phone lines were down. Nick's dad suggested that they pray for the children. Lauren's mother said it had been a long time since she had prayed.

Prayer is talking to God. No matter where we are He hears us. Have you prayed lately?

Twister and Shout - Even though the kids had been feuding and picking on each other all evening, when they realized that there was an emergency they were all willing to work together. Even though Nick was still angry at the others for the tricks that had been played on him earlier, when their lives were in jeopardy he forgot about getting even and did his part to keep everyone safe.

Has someone treated you unkindly? God will help you forgive them if you ask Him.

Skate Expectations - When Derek and his friends picked on Philip, Nick tried to help Philip even though the Nick's friends didn't like Philip or want to stand up to Derek. Nick wondered what he could do to make Derek and the other bullies leave Philip alone. He challenged Derek to a skateboard race. Then he found out that Derek was an expert on the skateboard. Nick was scared but he still did what was right.

Do you know someone who is being mistreated? How can you help?

Skate Expectations - Nick wanted to win the race to help Philip. Derek was willing to cheat so that he could win. Even though Derek crossed the finish line first, Derek lost race because he cheated. He would have gotten away with it if the rest of the kids hadn't stood up for what is right.

Have you ever stood up against something that is wrong to defend someone?

Back to the Drawing Board - When a new boy came to town Nick felt very threatened because Todd was an artist. When all of the students at the school were impressed with Todd's talent Nick felt jealous. His grandma reminded Nick that he was given his gift of drawing to glorify God, not to compete with Todd. Each of us has talents. We don't have to be the best. We just need to use our talents the best we can.

What are some of your gifts and talents? Are you using them wisely?

Back to the Drawing Board - When Nick and Todd had the opportunity to compete in the winter carnival poster contest neither one of them won. The winning poster was Derek's. There is more to life than beating someone else. No matter what we do and how good we are, there will always be someone who will be better yet. Our goals should be much higher than competing against other people.

What are your goals in life? Is there someone you compete with that you should make your friend instead?

Dear Lord, Thank You for the gifts and talents that You have given to each one of us. Help us to use our abilities for good. Teach us how to protect those who need our help. Watch over us and keep us in Your loving care. Bless us and keep us for Jesus' sake, Amen.