

## The Secrets of Jonathan Sperry

*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. Romans 3:23-24*

*Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. John 14:6*

*If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. 11 For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in Him will not be put to shame." Romans 10:9-11*

When Jonathan Sperry asked Dustin to mow his lawn it began a friendship that was very special to both of them. Jonathan began teaching Dustin and his friends life values from the Bible. Mr. Sperry invited them to bring their Bibles to his house and he would show them that included chocolate cake. The boys confessed that they hadn't read their Bibles much, but they agreed to come.

Have you ever had a creative teacher who used everyday illustrations to help teach you about life?

Jonathan Sperry said, "The Bible says not to steal. Do you want anyone stealing from you? And the Bible says not to lie. Do you want anyone lying to you?" When Mr. Sperry taught the boys he did it in interesting, practical ways. He taught them to love God's word and share it with others. He told them that it wouldn't always be easy -- and sometimes it would be very difficult to follow the Lord.

What do you believe in? Do you know that God loves you? Do you trust in Him?

When Nick dropped Dustin's Bible into the mud, Mr. Sperry said, "Many men have attacked this book to keep people from reading it." Sometimes the Bible is difficult to read. There are books in the Bible that have names that are hard to pronounce. Dustin suggested to Mr. Barnes that he begin by reading the Gospel of John which tells about the life of Jesus. It was written by John who was one of Jesus' disciples.

Have you read much of the Bible? Start with the Gospel of John.

When Nick started to pick on Mr. Sperry at the Pizza Parlor, Mr. Sperry told Nick that he knew his father who had died years before and that he could be very proud of him. He told Nick that he should come to his house if he wanted to know more about his father. After talking to Mr. Sperry Nick learned about his earthly father and his Heavenly Father. Nick confessed his faults and asked God to change him.

Do you have problems that you struggle with? Have you ever asked God to change you?

When Dustin wanted to mow Mr. Barnes' lawn, at Jonathan Sperry's suggestion, Mr. Barnes refused his help. Even though Dustin continued to ask him, Mr. Barnes kept refusing. Finally Dustin just mowed the lawn. Whenever he could he encouraged Mr. Barnes to read the Bible. Mr. Barnes was crabby to Dustin, but he was listening. When Mr. Sperry died Dustin was discouraged. Mr. Barnes encouraged him to keep talking about Jesus because someone might be listening. Are you listening?

Dustin really liked Tanya. All through the movie he wanted to ask her out. In the end, though, he realized that the most important thing was to make sure that she knew Jesus and would spend eternity in heaven.

Have you ever thought about what will happen to you when your life is over? Do you know where you and your loved ones will spend eternity? The Bible tells us that if we confess our sins and put our faith in Jesus that we will be saved. When we invite Him into our lives He will always be with us.

*Dear Lord, we all make many mistakes. We confess that we've gone our own way instead of following You. Forgive our sins and change us so that we can be more like You. Take away our fears and fill us with Your Holy Spirit. Let our lives be pleasing in Your sight. Change us for Your glory and our good. We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.*