

Swamp Robber - The Sugar Creek Gang - 1

Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. 1 Timothy 6:11-12 ESV

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:19-21 ESV

When Bill Collins planned to go fishing with his friends he encountered two boys and their father who were new in the area. Bob and Tom Till caused trouble for Bill from the start. Even though they didn't even know Bill they made fun of him, threatened to break his fishing pole, and dumped out his worms.

Why do you think Tom and Bob were so unkind?

The Sugar Creek Gang cared about friendship and helping others. When they encountered problems they tried to solve them together. Even though they didn't always get along perfectly, they were a team and pulled together. Friendship helps draw out the best in people.

Do you help draw out the best in people?

When the Sugar Creek Gang was chased by the old man with the white beard they made a pact to not tell anyone. Little Jim wanted to tell the sheriff but the others didn't want him to because it would spoil their fun. When the gang caught the real robber in the swamp and found that he had a revolver in his bag, they decided that they should get the sheriff.

Was it wise of them to not tell anyone about the old man who chased them?

The gang went in search of the cabin that belonged to "Old Man Padler" and found him tied up in his bed. He said he'd been traveling around the world for about 10 years and when he came home he found someone else living in his house. The intruder had tied him up and was going to leave him there to die. When Big Jim and Circus found him it saved his life.

Have you ever helped someone who was in a difficult or dangerous situation?

Circus and Dragonfly's father, Daniel, did a lot of drinking. When he didn't come home one night Ted Collins went out looking for him, but Daniel didn't want his help. When Daniel drank he could escape his feelings of failure. Daniel and his wife did a lot of fighting. Arguing is never good communication, but rather a sure sign that people aren't listening to each other.

Do you listen when people talk to you? Do they listen when you talk?

Daniel's wife said that he had been drinking more since the baby was born. She thought he was scared that he couldn't provide for his family. Each of us will encounter problems and struggles in life. We can choose to face the problem intelligently or run away. When Daniel chose to drink instead of facing reality, he made life harder for his family and for himself.

How do you deal with problems? How does that affect your family and the people around you?

Dear Lord, we thank You for always listening to us. Give us the patience to hear the answers that You give to us in Your word and through the people around us. Help us to listen to what others are saying. Take away our impatience and give us peace so that we live our lives in kindness and goodness. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.