

Revival Villains - The Sugar Creek Gang - 3

Your righteousness, O God, reaches the high heavens. You who have done great things, O God, who is like You? You who have made me see many troubles and calamities will revive me again; from the depths of the earth You will bring me up again. Psalm 71:19-20 ESV

Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You? Show us Your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us Your salvation. Psalm 85:6-7 ESV

For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite." Isaiah 57:15

When Theodore Collins showed his son, Bill, how to start the generator that would run the lights for the revival, he asked his daughter if she'd like to try it too. When she said no, Theodore said, "I think she'd like to say yes, but sometimes people say no because they are afraid to say yes." When Bill said asked her again later if she'd like to try it if he showed her how, she said yes.

Have you ever been afraid to try something that you really wanted to do?

All of the gang was excited about going to the revival. They said to Dragonfly that he had a whole week of fun ahead of him. During the Revival the whole community got together for good food, music, fellowship, and a time of worship together. The Revival was a time to lift people's spirits and strengthen their faith.

What do you do when you are feeling discouraged?

The children said Mr. Till was the man with the sad wife. Both of the Till children were in trouble all of the time. Mr. Till told Big Bob that he was just as close to worthless as anyone on earth. Although Mr. Till was a good worker, (Theodore Collins said that when Mr. Till worked for him he did a fine job.) he was an unhappy man and brought unhappiness to his family as well.

Are you a happy person? Do you brighten the lives of those around you or make them unhappy?

When Tom Till came to the revival he apologized for stealing the pie and for fighting. He went to the service and stood by his mother to let her know that he wanted his life to be different. Even though he wanted to be good and do good things, he still loved his brother and wanted the best for him.

Is there someone in your life that has made poor choices? Can you help turn their life around?

Although we don't know why Bob Till stole the generator from the general store, he might have wanted to take it to the revival to restore the light or he might have wanted to make sure that there wasn't a spare available. Although Daniel helped Mr. Till take the generator apart, the message of the revival was changing his heart even while he was trying to sabotage the meeting.

God is calling each of us to turn away from our mistakes of the past and turn our hearts to Him.

When Bill offered Daniel a candle at the revival, Daniel was finally ready to say yes to turning his life around. After years of saying no to any help that was offered to him, Daniel took the light and joined his family. God wants to change our hearts, too. He is calling us to live lives that are positive and good.

Do you need to let God change your heart and help you live a life that honors Him? Ask Him and He will.

Dear Lord we thank You for Your good and gracious love for us. Take away the discouragement in our lives and fill us with hope for the future. Forgive us for the poor choices that we've made in the past and help us to live joyfully for You. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.