AWWOP Children’s 6

Thursday

My Heart Is Full of Joy

Luc looked at the bags sitting beside the door. Excitement filled him knowing that in just a few hours he would see his grandparents.

During the trip Luc thought about his grandparents. Grandpa always told them stories and Grandma cooked and baked wonderful food. A warm feeling came over Luc as he thought about them and he soon fell asleep.

“Hey, sleepyhead.” Luc rubbed his eyes.

“Are you going to sleep this entire visit?” the voice asked again.

“Grandpa!” Luc cried with happiness. “I guess I must have fallen asleep on the trip.”

Luc grabbed his bag with one hand and Grandpa’s hand with the other. Together they went into the house. The smell of freshly baked bread tickled Luc’s nose.

As the family ate their evening meal, everyone shared about what was happening in their lives. Soon the meal was over, and it was time for worship.

Grandpa prayed to begin things. “Tonight I’d like everyone to share something they are thankful for and why,” said Grandpa. “Jake, let’s start with you.”

Finally it was Luc’s turn. “I’m thankful that I have a family who is so happy,” said Luc. “Some of my friends have families who fight all the time. I’m glad mine doesn’t.”

When Luc looked at Grandpa, he noticed tears in his eyes.“

“What you said means so much to me,” said Grandpa. “You see, there was a time when I was just plain mean.”

Luc was shocked. Grandpa couldn’t be mean. He was one of the nicest people Luc had ever met.

Grandma confirmed it: “A long time ago Grandpa had a very bad temper.”

Grandpa looked off into the distance and remembered something from long ago. “Grandma is right. I didn’t have any control over my temper or my attitude,” said Grandpa. “That was before I accepted Jesus into my heart. When I confessed my sins to Him, I asked for Him to change me and take away my bad temper.”

“Every day I prayed that Jesus would help me keep my temper under control,” said Grandpa. “Some days I did. Then I would thank Jesus for helping me. Some days I would get really angry. Then I would have to ask God to forgive me again. With God’s help I eventually controlled my temper.”

“Wow!” said Luc. “We’ve learned about the fruit of the Spirit, such as peace, kindness, joy, and self-control. I think you have the fruit of the Spirit, Grandpa!”

Grandpa chuckled. “That’s right, Luc. When we accept Jesus and confess our sins, our lives are changed.”

Bible Verse

“Also, I will teach you to respect me completely. I will put a new way to think inside you. I will take out the stubborn heart like stone from your bodies. And I will give you an obedient heart of flesh” (Ezekiel 36:26, ICB).

Activity

Mix four tablespoons of white vinegar with one teaspoon of iodized salt. Drop several coins in the mixture and allow them to soak for several minutes. Take the coins out of the solution and dry. What happened to the coins?

Thought Question

What is in your life that you need to have Jesus help you change?