

# *Children's Story:*

## *But, what can I do? I'm only a kid.*

*Leader's notes: Read the following story to the children. If you feel the need, introduce the story.*

### **But, what can I do? I'm only a kid.**

A young boy, David, and his sister Margaret, often grumbled about it taking so long for them to grow up and be big and strong like their parents and drive the car, stay up late, not have to do homework for school, not have to ask permission to go places with their friends, or do so many other things.

*(Additional activities could also be named here.)*

One day, they over heard their Dad and Mom saying they were very happy that the next day was Saturday because they could stay at home. They had worked hard all week and were feeling tired. Their Mother said, "We really do need to do some things around our home this weekend: the grass needs to be cut *(or shovel snow if this is more appropriate)*, the lawn furniture needs to be cleaned, and the deck swept. And of course, David and Margaret need clean clothes for school next week so laundry needs to be done." Their Dad said, "Don't forget we will all be going to visit Grandma this afternoon. It's her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. We need to wrap her gift and get a birthday card."

Margaret looked at David and said, "That doesn't sound like much fun!" David agreed. They felt sorry for their tired parents and all the work they had to do. Margaret said, "We're not very big, and we are not as strong as our parents, but there must be something we can do to help."

The more the brother and sister talked about it, the more excited they became because they could think of several things they could do that would help their parents.

David said, "I can help gather the laundry and I can help Dad clean the lawn furniture!"

Margaret said, "I can sweep the patio and wrap Grandma's birthday present!"

Then, David and Margaret decided they would like to do something extra special for their Grandmother's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Together they made a beautiful birthday card. Margaret, David, their Mom and Dad, each signed the card and David attached it to the gift Margaret had wrapped. With the tasks around the house completed, they all left for Grandma's house.

Margaret and David, could hardly wait to get to Grandma's house and watch her unwrap her gift and read the card they had made.

Grandma was very pleased with the gift, and when she opened her birthday card she smiled a great big smile and wrapped her arms around Margaret and David. "This is the most beautiful card I have ever received. Your card has made my birthday very special. I will keep it here on my table and enjoy it every day," she told them.

On the way home David said to Margaret, “I am glad we made that birthday card for Grandma.” Margaret replied, “So am I. You know it made me feel happy when Grandma was so pleased with our card.”

Later that night when David and Margaret said their nightly prayers, they thanked God for the things they were able to do, that they had helped others and felt good. They thanked God for a wonderful day.

### **Conversation with the children:**

*Leader’s note: If you want to include props to guide the children’s conversation, bring items that hint at chores to help, i.e. dust pan, pillow, school work book, napkins, non-perishable food item, etc.*

What are some things you can do to help others around the house (*set the table, weed the garden, shovel, sweep the floor, etc.*), at school (*tutor, be nice to everyone, play someone else’s game, listen to the teacher, share, etc.*), at church (*help sort food donations, do a reading, etc.*), or in your community (*help younger children get home from school, make a new friend, etc.*)?

Margaret and David learned that doing something good for others (helping their parents, and making the card for their Grandma) makes others very happy. And they learned something else—what did they learn?

*(Margaret and David learned that doing something for another makes us feel good too.)*

David and Margaret can help us understand that helping one another is a very good way of letting others know we love them. It is also one of the best ways we can thank God for all the ways God helps us, and cares for us. And this makes God very happy.

### **Prayer:**

Loving God, you have given us families and friends and teachers who care for us. Help us to share your love and thank you for all our gifts by helping others each day. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

### **Hymn suggestions:**

From the 1997 *Book of Praise*: 635 – *Brother sister let me serve you*, 441 – *Can a little child like me*, 631 – *Jesus’ hands were kind hands*.

*The worship resources for Mission Awareness Sunday have been written by the Rev. Shirley Gale. Shirley grew up in Perth, ON. In the Presbyterian Church she gave leadership in women’s groups, church school, Bible study groups, and youth and children’s groups.*

*In 1972, she and her family moved to Montreal where, in preparation for ministry, she studied at McGill University and Presbyterian College. Upon ordination, Shirley was called as minister of St. Matthew’s Church in Montreal where she served for nine years. Since her first call, Shirley has ministered in Forest, ON; been a full-time Interim-Minister in Port Perry and Ashburn, ON; co-pastored with her husband, the Rev. Herb Gale in Guelph, ON; and sat on various committees and task forces at all levels of the church.*

*Since her retirement in 2000, Shirley hasn’t stopped working. She has assisted several congregations with conflict resolution, future planning, and preparing to receive a new minister.*

*These days, Shirley enjoys time with her husband and family and also gardening, music, reading, and knitting. She keeps busy with traveling, pulpit supply, and committee work for Presbytery.*