

The Bee Story

with Grandpa Jesse



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It was a beautiful summer day. School was out, and Johnny wanted to play outside. He wanted to feel the breeze and smell the flowers and trees.



Johnny asked his mom if he could go outside. She said, "No. I have a lot of work to do. Please stay where I can keep an eye on you."



Johnny said, "Mom, I'm eight years old. Can I play in our fenced front yard? I'll stay inside the fence. Maybe I'll build a fort."



Mom said, "All right, if you promise to stay in the front yard." Johnny was happy. He went outside, looked around, and wondered what to do first.



Soon, Johnny heard his friends. They called, "Come on! Let's fight the bees and take their honey!" They invited Johnny to come along. Johnny said, "I promised Mom I'd stay in the front yard."



One boy asked, "You like honey, don't you? Wouldn't your mom like some?" Johnny said yes. His friends promised they would not be gone long. They gave him a lid to bang and a big stick.



Johnny slipped out through the gate and went with his friends. They banged and shouted, "We're going to fight the bees! We'll take their honey!" They crossed the dirt road and walked up the hill.



At the tree, they saw insects flying in and out of a nest under a branch. The boys said, "Johnny, you're the biggest and oldest. You go first. Knock it down, and then we'll get the honey."



Johnny was not sure. But the boys said, "You have the biggest stick. You have to go!" So Johnny slowly crept toward the tree.



Johnny hit the nest with his stick. But those were not bees. They were wasps—and they were angry! The wasps flew out of the nest.



Johnny turned to look for his friends, but they were gone. The wasps saw him. Unlike a bee that usually stings once, a wasp can sting more than once.



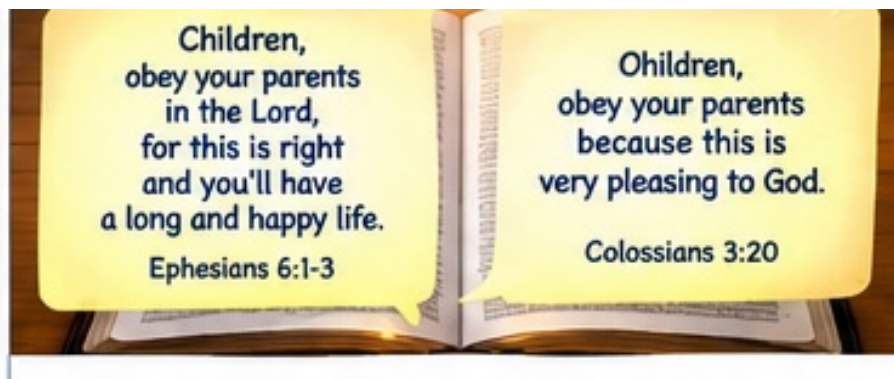
The wasps stung Johnny again and again. He cried, “Ow! Ow!” and ran all the way home. “Mommy! Mommy!” he called.



Mom saw the stings. She said, “There are too many for me to care for at home. We need to get you some medicine.” She took Johnny to get help.



After a while, Johnny felt better. He told his mom, “I’m sorry I disobeyed. I was wrong. I should have asked you before I went with my friends.”



The Bible teaches that God speaks to children, too. Ephesians 6:1–3 says, “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.”



Colossians 3:20 says, "Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord." When we obey, it pleases God and helps us live wisely. Johnny learned a hard lesson.