# INDEX TO STORIES TO TELL

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AN INTRODUCTION TO THE SERIES OF STORIES:
ON GRANDPA’S FARM

The Burden to impart with this series of lessons:

The stories included in this series were written to help the children in their most basic humanity. When the saints asked Brother Lee what should be taught to the children, he mentioned that we should help them to know what it is to be a human being, how to honor our parents, how to love our brothers and sisters, and how to respect those in authority. If we succeed in impressing them with these three aspects of what a proper humanity is this will be a great help to them for the rest of their lives, both in the human aspect as well as in the spiritual aspect.

The first series of stories touches upon the theme of loving their brothers and sisters. The burden behind this series is to help develop their understanding that we all are human beings and that we should therefore love one another and treat others even as we ourselves would like them to treat us. We should not selfishly do whatever we can for ourselves and ignore the needs of others around us. Rather, we should practice showing love to those around us, especially our brothers and sisters, by giving, by sharing, and by helping. Thus, at the children’s level we would like to infuse into the children, according to their level, some understanding and feeling regarding what the Lord Jesus told us is the essence of the law and the prophets: “Therefore all that you wish men would do to you, so also you do to them” (Matt. 7:12) and “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Matt. 22:39).

The second series of stories touch upon the theme of honoring the parents. Referring to Paul’s words in Ephesians 6 we try to help the children toward this goal by showing them different ways that they can express this, such as by: respecting their parents, being grateful to their parents, obeying their parents outwardly, and honoring their parents inwardly. Could a person honor God, his heavenly Father, if he is not able to first honor his earthly parents?

These lessons are illustrated in a very visible manner using animal characters. Children are usually very attracted to animal characters. By using them along with the stories we can associate the positive human virtues with some positive character traits of animals. It is hoped that this will be a good way to give these character traits, both positive and negative, a vivid impression to the children which they will never forget.

After using these stories to lay a foundation regarding the kind of humanity we desire to develop in the children, we would like to go on to build up something in their understanding regarding some traits of a proper character. Once again, we would like to use the scenery of grandpa’s farm as the context of the stories, and once again, we
would like to use characteristics of different animals to illustrate this to them in a memorable way. This series of stories still needs to be written.

Instructions regarding how to use whatever materials are available for this series of stories:

1) If colored drawings are available, they will be imbedded into the story on the webpage for the children to see and enjoy.

2) If sketch-drawings, crafts or songs are available for each story a like will be provided at the end of the story by a link so that they may be seen, heard or downloaded.

Since many more suggestions, crafts, drawings, songs, etc. may be developed for the stories by the saints as they use them, we would appreciate that they be passed on to us so that we may make them available for all to use. Please send them in an electronic form to: www.administration@alacenaparaninos.com
ON GRANDPA’S FARM

PETER AND THE PEARS

Sometimes during vacation Peter and Louis would visit their grandparent’s farm. Do you know what a farm is? (It would be good to interact with the children on this point). The last time Peter went to his grandparent’s farm, he learned a very valuable lesson.

When they arrived at the farm, Peter’s grandfather asked him to help him collect the pears that were now ripe enough to eat. Of all the pears they picked, one was the largest and best. Whenever Peter looked at that pear he thought to himself that if he left it in the basket with the rest of the pears, surely his brother, Louis, would grab it as soon as he saw it. So he took it out of the basket and hid it in his pants pocket. When his grandfather noticed that the pocket of his pants was bulging out, he asked him, “Peter, are you bringing a pear home in your pants pocket also? Why don’t you put it in the basket along with the rest of the pears?” Peter was a bit surprised when he heard his grandfather ask him that question, since he thought he would not have noticed it. He answered his grandfather that it was okay, that it did not bother him at all when he walked. His grandfather smiled a little as they continued walking.

Before they got home Peter heard a lot of noise in the pig pen, so he asked his grandfather, “Grandpa, why is there so much noise in the pig pen? What is going on?” His grandfather answered, “Well, for sure the pigs are fighting for the food! It is always the same old story; the bigger and stronger pigs don’t let the smaller ones eat, but push them aside and keep the biggest portion for themselves.”
When Peter heard that, he put his hand into his pocket and pulled out that beautiful pear that he had kept for himself and put it into the basket along with all the other pears. He shamefully bowed his head and the two walked on together.

Peter learned that pigs are animals that do not like to share anything they have with others. We call this “selfishness.”

**Burden to impart:** We should love our brothers, sisters, and everyone, and we should not be selfish. On the contrary, we can share what we have with others. They will be happy and we will be happy also.

**Verse to teach:** “Be kind to one another”- Ephesians 4:32

**Song:**
//What a joy to share!//
When I share with others,
It’s a joy to share!
(repeat one time)
(The tune can be accessed in the Spanish story.)
ON GRANDPA’S FARM

A SPECIAL PORTION

While Peter and his grandfather went out collecting pears in the morning, Luis, Peter’s younger brother, went with his grandmother to the small store of Don Carmelo which was near the farm.

“Grandma, what are you going to buy at the store?” Luis asked before they arrived. “I am going to buy wheat, eggs, milk, and some other things that I need so that I can make the cake that you and Peter love so much!” she replied, as little Luis smiled.

When they got back home grandma began to put all the ingredients together on the table. As Luis was watching her he suddenly heard the voice of another child near the window. Since it was not the voice of his brother, Peter, he looked out through the window to see who it was. He said loudly, “Grandma! Grandma! Look at that young boy in the neighbor’s yard! It looks like he is taking care of sheep! Is that right, grandma? His grandmother replied, “Yes, Luis. Look at the sheep that are eating near the bushes: there are two big ones and one small one.

They could easily take the grass away from the smaller one, but they don’t. Instead, they share the grass with it!” Aaahh! exclaimed Luis in surprise.
Afterward Luis’s grandmother returned to the kitchen and prepared the delicious chocolate cake that Luis liked so much. When she cut the cake, Luis asked his grandmother if he could set aside a special portion for his brother, Peter. His grandmother was a little surprised at his question because usually children do not like to share what they have with others. Therefore she asked him if he really wanted to share this special portion with his brother. Luis replied, “Yes, Grandma; for sure Peter will come home very tired and hungry, so let us set aside a special portion for him and grandpa.” His grandmother smiled when she heard little Luis’s kind words.

At that very moment Peter and his grandfather arrived. Luis ran out to meet them, and gave each one a big hug. When he looked at Peter’s basked he said, “Peter, what a huge pear! Could I have it so I can share it with Grandma?” Peter smiled happily and gave his very best pear to Luis.

Peter learned that when we share what we have with others, not only they feel happy, but we do also.

While they were coming into the house Luis told Peter and his grandfather what he had seen through the window and how he learned that sheep are very calm animals that don’t fight with one another, and besides that they like to share with one another; they are not selfish.

Burden to impart: We should love our brothers, sisters, and everyone, and express our love to others by helping them and by sharing what we have with them.

Memory verse: “…let us do what is good toward all…” Galatians 6:10
**Song:**

//What a joy to share!//
When I share with others
¡It’s a joy to share!

(repeat one time)

(The tune can be accessed in the Spanish story.)
ON GRANDPA´S FARM

ONE UNFORGETTABLE AFTERNOON

After collecting the pears in the fresh of the morning with Grandpa and preparing the cake with Grandma, Peter and Luis waited for the arrival of their parents to the farm that day. Grandpa had very much enjoyed the company of his grandchildren, and it is hard to describe how happy their dear grandmother was to be with them, having not seen them for a whole year! They really enjoyed that time of vacation together.

While they waited for Peter and Luis’s parents to arrive, Grandma came out of the kitchen with a delicious chocolate cake, saying, “Peter, this special slice of cake is for you. Luis asked me to keep it for you and here it is! Peter’s eyes opened wide as he looked at that large slice of cake before him. He exclaimed, “Thank you, Grandma, for making us our favorite cake! And thank you also, Luis, for such a large slice!” They all smiled happily and just when they began to enjoy their cake the sound of a car was heard pulling into the farm. “It seems like someone has arrived,” commented Luis. Then Peter shouted, “Grandpa, Grandpa, it’s my parents! “ Then Peter and Luis went out to meet their parents. They all came back together to the house to share the delicious cake that Grandma had made for them all.

Peter and Luis had a lot of fun experiences on the farm that week, but at that moment they only wanted to share what they had learned that day with their parents. Peter told them that while he and his grandfather returned home after collecting pears they saw a pig pen. They saw the pigs all fighting for the food and pushing the smaller ones away. He told them that the bigger pigs used their weight to push the smaller pigs away and not let them eat. But they shouldn’t do that because the smaller pigs have to eat also! Then Luis shared what he had seen through the
window, how the little sheep are very calm animals who share the grass with one another, regardless how big or small they are. Then Peter concluded by saying, “So then, pigs are selfish animals because they don’t like to share with anyone else, and sheep are animals that not only don’t fight with one another, but they like to share what they have.”

After hearing all that the children had learned that morning both Peter and Luis’s parents and grandparents were delighted. Then Grandpa turned to see Peter and Luis and asked them, “Who do you want to be like, the pigs or the sheep?” With a great smile on their faces they both answered together, “Like the sheep, Grandpa!” So after such a lesson they all continued enjoying that sweet afternoon on Grandpa’s farm. Grandma noticed happily that her two grandsons were very happy because each one had learned to share whatever they had, whether it was a pear or a piece of cake!

**Burden to impart:** We should love our brothers, sisters, and everyone. We can show our love to others by sharing whatever we can with them and not being selfish.

**Verse to teach:** “…Love your neighbor as yourself” - Matthew 19:19

**Song:** En la granja del abuelo  
(to the tune of “In the Temple”)  
(Song needs to be translated into English)
ON GRANDPA’S FARM

THE BEST MILK I EVER TASTED!

As every morning on Grandpa’s farm, the crowing of the roosters could be heard from the barn. The crowing was so loud that it reached the ears of Luis and woke him up. He quickly jumped out of bed and ran to find his Grandpa.

He looked for him from room to room – first the kitchen then the dining room, but couldn’t find him. "Grandfather, Grandpa!" he called out. Grandma heard him from the garden and raising her voice asked: "What is going on, Luis? Why are you shouting so loudly? Come here, my child." After hearing her call to him, Luis went to the garden and asked his Grandmother where Grandpa was. She told him that every morning grandfather gets up very early to milk the cows in order to get milk for breakfast. She said that the delicious milk they drink every morning comes from the hard work of his grandfather and the cows that he takes care of with so much effort. After hearing this, Luis asked his Grandmother to give him permission to go with his grandfather, to which the Grandmother answered yes, if he would be careful when he came into the stable, because he is a small little boy and those big fat cows do not know him. "Yes, Grandmother, I’ll be careful not to scare them when I go in," he replied and ran off to discover how his grandfather got milk.

When he arrived to the barn he stopped at the door, took a few breaths and said: "Grandpa, Grandpa, can I come in? Grandmother gave me permission to come to see you here. This morning I woke up when I heard the roosters crowing and I went out to find you, but you were not in the house. So Grandma told me where I could find you and here I am, grandfather! I want to help you milk the cows!" Please teach me how to do it; I would like to help
you, grandfather; okay?" Luis was so insistent that grandfather could not refuse. "Okay, Luis, come in, but I warn you that milking cows is not an easy job." Luis smiled and went on in. Although grandfather carefully explained to Luis how to milk the cow, because his hands were so small and did not have enough strength, Luis could not do it very well. However, the grandfather appreciated that Luis had come to help him and was giving his best effort to do so.

Soon Peter came and cried out from the barn door: "Grandpa! Louis! Grandma is waiting for us to come for breakfast; come on!" "We’re coming, Peter, just a little more of milk and we are ready," Grandpa replied. Peter stuck his head into the stable a little bit to see how hard his little brother was working to get a little more of milk from that enormous cow. He was squeezing so hard that his little hands were red! But he was not discouraged. Rather, he would turn his head from time to time to look at his Grandpa, as if he was asking him if he was doing it right. His Grandpa would nod his head with a tender smile.

Suddenly a squirt of milk splashed on Luis’s face. When Peter saw the ugly face and said, "Luis, how does it taste?"

Little Luis wiped his face off and turned to his brother and asked, "Do you want to give it a try?" Peter answered: "No, yuk!" "Well, you’re going to miss out; this is fun!" said Luis. So after a few more minutes they all three left the barn with enough milk for breakfast that morning.

That morning Grandpa enjoyed his milk very much. What gave the milk that special flavor was that this morning he got the milk with the help of other hands, the hands of little Luis. Peter also felt like the milk had a special flavor that morning, so he asked his Grandpa if he also could help milk the cows the next morning. Peter was captured by his little brother’s efforts to milk the cow. Even Grandpa, although he had already learned many lessons in his long life, this time the lesson he learned was given by a little child. Peter and
Grandpa both learned that when we do something with the help of others, it is more enjoyable, and we are left with a satisfied and happy heart.

**Burden to impart:** *We should love our brothers, sisters, and everyone.* We all can show our love for others by helping them with a willing attitude, and without expecting anything in return.

**Verse to teach:** “...be kind to one another, tenderhearted...” Ephesians 4:32

Click on the link below to watch a boy milking a real cow on a farm in Cuba:

ON GRANDPA’S FARM

GRANDMOTHER AND THE HENHOUSE

One morning very early, Grandmother began looking for something in the kitchen. She looked everywhere but couldn’t find what she wanted anywhere. Right then little Luis woke up and asked her: "What are you looking for, Grandma?" "I’m looking for a basket, Luis; it is a bigger basket than the one that is behind you," his grandmother replied. "Oh, I’ll find it, Grandmother!" Then Luis began to search for the basket that Grandma told him about. While he was looking for it he was wondering why his grandmother wanted so large of a basket at that time in the morning.

After a few minutes Luis looked behind the kitchen door and shouted: "I found it! I found it, Grandmother! Here it is!" "Thank you, Luis, now I’m going," his grandmother said as she left the kitchen with a big smile. "Where are you going, Grandma? And what are you going to use the basket for?" His grandmother turned and said to him: "I'm going to the henhouse to collect the eggs that the hens laid last night. That’s what this basket is for. Tell me, would you like to go with me?" "Sure, Grandma!". Yes, I want to go with you to collect the eggs!" said little Luis as he took his grandmother’s hand. "Wait, Grandmother, I will ask Peter to come also to help us!"

Luis raced down the stairs to wake up Peter. When he reached Peter’s bed he jumped on top of him and said, "Peter, Peter, come with Grandma and I to the henhouse to collect eggs! Do you want to go?" asked Luis. Peter said to Luis, "No, no, I’m too tired and need to sleep more!" "Besides, that sounds too boring. It would be better for you to stay and get some more sleep with me, Luis". For a few seconds Luis stopped to think who he should stay with, with his brother or
his Grandmother. But just thinking of his Grandmother’s smile was good enough for him to make his decision. "No, Peter, I will go with Grandma; she needs my help to collect the eggs faster and to carry the basket. "When I come back then I will stay with you." Peter said that it was okay and went back to bed.

Once Luis and his grandmother got into henhouse, Luis very quickly learned how to collect the eggs. Since he is small, he could easily get between the nests to collect the eggs.

When they returned home, Peter was a little bit angry because Luis did not stay with him. Luis however was very happy to help his Grandmother collect the eggs. Luis told Peter how the henhouse was, how the hens were all asleep and what the nests were like where the eggs are laid. When Peter heard all this, he was sorry he did not go with them.

That morning Peter learned that because of his laziness he missed the opportunity to help his grandmother and he also missed the enjoyment of collecting the eggs with his brother. It would surely have taken longer for Grandma to collect the eggs if she had not had the help of little Luis. And besides that, Luis also had a very enjoyable time.

**Burden to impart:** We should love our brothers, sisters, and everyone. We can show our love to others by helping them, and especially the elderly people.

**Verse to memorize:** “...they signaled to their companions ...to come and assist [help] them. And they came....” Luke 5:7
ON GRANDPA’S FARM
EVERYBODY CAN HELP

Once the morning begins to lose its freshness and the tasks of the morning are all done, such as milking the cows and collecting the eggs, Grandmother hurries into the kitchen. For her to have breakfast with her grandchildren is so special! So she does her very best job to spoil them with everything she cooks.

Grandma quickly put on her apron and started to prepare breakfast while Grandpa watered the garden. Peter and Luis were playing nearby with a cute puppy, a dog called “Madu.” Madu is very playful with children and they were having a lot of fun throwing the ball over and over again while he ran after it. Between all the laughing and fun, Luis smelled something delicious from Grandmother’s kitchen. "Ummmm, what a delicious smell, Peter!". Surely Grandma is cooking breakfast for us in the kitchen. How about going to help her, Peter?” asked little Luis while watching the smoke coming from the kitchen chimney. "No, Luis, if we leave, with who will Madu have to play with?" Peter replied. "You’re right, Peter, but if we don’t go who is going to help Grandma to cook? Grandpa can’t, because he is watering the garden...If you want we can come back and play with Madu later. We can leave him in his little house for now. What do you say, Peter?" Peter answered, "Well, maybe we can help Grandma later." Seeing that Peter didn’t want to go to help Grandma, Luis ran off and in a few seconds was already coming into Grandma’s kitchen.

As he walked through the door he said: "Ummmm, what a delicious smell, Grandma! What are you cooking? Tell me, what can I do to help you", asked Luis. As his grandmother looked at his little hands, filled with dust, and his sweaty face, she smiled and said, "First you go and wash your hands very well with soap and water and then you can help me to put those bananas on the table; okay, little boy?" Luis smiled and did exactly what Grandma asked him to do. Once he finished that, he asked his grandmother what else he could do. She asked him to call his grandfather and his brother to come so they could have breakfast together. Once they were all seated around the table they began
to enjoy the very best breakfast. There were scrambled eggs, bacon, fresh milk and fruit. While they were eating breakfast grandfather asked Luis if he remembered how they got the milk and eggs. Little Luis became excited as he told him how they gathered the eggs out of the chicken’s nests and milked the cow in the barn. He thought that was a lot of fun.

When they finished breakfast Peter was the first one to get up from the table and pick up everyone’s dishes. Grandma said that he didn’t need to do that; he could come back to the table and she would wash the dishes. But this time Peter smiled to his grandmother and told her that she had already worked hard making the breakfast with the help of Luis, and that Grandpa also had to milk the cows to get the milk. So this time he wanted to do something to help by washing the dishes. He also wanted to have something to tell his parents about! The four all smiled happily and agreed. Peter very cheerfully washed all the dishes that were used in the breakfast. Thus, Peter learned that we all can help each other, whether it’s a simple task or even if it requires a lot of work. We can all help according to our ability.

**Burden to impart:** We should love our brothers, sisters, and everyone. We can show our love to others by helping them and by generously giving.

**Memory verse:** Bear one another’s burdens... Galatians 6:2
ON GRANDPA´S FARM

PEETER AND THE ROOSTER

Peter woke up all excited. Today was a special day. Grandma had hatched a baby chick from an egg in an incubator. Her name was "Peep" because she peeped all the time, "peep, peep, peep." Peep was now old enough to go into the chicken yard with all the other chickens. Grandpa said they would take her there after breakfast. Peter hurriedly got dressed, and ran downstairs for breakfast. Everyone was already eating, even little brother Louis. As he came into the kitchen Peter heard Louis saying, “May I carry Peep to the yard?” Peter immediately argued back, “No, I want to carry her out!”

Grandpa said, “We’ll talk about it after breakfast, but first you must eat.”

After breakfast, Grandpa picked up the box and brought it outside. The boys began arguing about who was going to get to carry the box. Louis was very stubborn; he wanted to carry the box. “No!” Peter yelled, “I’m bigger; I should be able to carry it.” Louis insisted, “I asked first!” Then Grandpa said, “Since you boys are arguing about it, I will carry the box myself.” Grandpa picked up the box, and turned to go. Peter was so mad that he gave Louis a little shove. He didn’t mean to push him hard, but Louis stepped back, and hit his head on a tree branch. “Ow!” he complained, rubbing his head. Peter told Louis he was sorry, that he didn’t mean to hurt him. Then they both ran after Grandpa.

“I can run faster than you,” Peter called to Louis, who had huffed and puffed trying to keep up. After running up a little hill, Peter hollered, “Yahoo! I’m king of the hill!” Down below, Grandpa was already at the chicken yard. Grandpa said, “Let’s feed the chickens before we let Peep go.”
So they all got a handful of scratch, which is what corn for chickens is called, and they began to throw it into the yard. First the big rooster ran over and began crowing and scratching at the ground to let the hens know how important he was, acting like *he*, not Grandpa, was the one providing food for them. Then he jumped up on a stump, threw his head back, and let out a great Er, Er, Er, Er, EEEEEER! just to let everyone know that he was the king of the chicken yard.

After gently setting Peep in the yard, Grandpa walked over to a private pen area with more scratch. There was another rooster sitting there, looking battered and bruised. He wouldn’t even raise his head. “What happened to him, Grandpa?” Louis asked.
Grandpa explained, “This rooster was the little brother of the rooster in the yard. One day, the big rooster wanted to show everyone who was the boss, and he got into a fight with the younger rooster. Roosters have long, sharp, claws on the backs of their legs that they fight with. They are supposed to use them to protect the hens and chicks, but sometimes they use them to fight each other. They can hurt each other, or even kill each other. The big rooster, instead of protecting his little brother, worked himself up into such a rage he injured him. He hurt him so badly have to keep them apart, now. They can’t ever be put into the same pen again.

Peter was quiet, lost in thought on their way back to the house. He would hate it if his little brother ever got hurt like that and had to be by himself. Suddenly, being king of the hill didn’t seem so important anymore. He felt rather ashamed of how he had treated Louis, and of his own crowing about how great he was. He slowed his pace, waiting for Louis to catch up. Then he walked the rest of the way back to the house next to Louis, glad he had a little brother he could play with.

**Burden to impart:** We should not be careless in how we treat people, especially the ones close to us; each one is precious.

**Verse to teach:** “…love one another...” John 13:34
It was going to be a big day for Grandma. Mrs. Simon’s class of first grade girls was coming to visit the farm. Grandma was baking chocolate chip cookies to hand out as a snack.

The roar of the bus and the squeal of brakes let Grandma know the girls had arrived. She went out to greet them, and made it just as a gaggle of fifteen giggling girls exited the bus. As Grandma introduced herself to the class, she noticed that a last little girl got off the bus. She was quieter than the rest, and seemed to stand alone. She had a brace on her leg, and unlike the others, there was no smile on her face. Grandma could see some of the girls whispering and gesturing toward her; then they broke out in laughter. The smaller girl turned red, and seemed to shrink away even farther.
Grandpa came up to give the group the tour. Everyone marched off to the barn to visit the cows and the pigs. Trailing behind was the lone crippled girl. The others had brushed past her roughly, almost knocking her over, and then they ran gaily ahead.

After trying their hand at milking cows, they all trooped over to the chicken yard, joined by Grandma. The girls crowded around the fence as Grandpa explained that they had to stay away from the rooster. He could be dangerous. --is sharp spurs could slash you. The little crippled girl was smaller than the rest, and she couldn’t get close enough to see. Just then a loud cackling came from the chicken roost, the house where the chickens sleep. Grandma laughingly explained that it was just a hen announcing that she had produced an egg. Goodness! You would think she had just laid a golden egg, with all the noise she made!

They watched as Grandpa threw scratch for the chicken and laughed at the rooster’s comical efforts to fool everyone into thinking he had produced the scratch himself. All the hens gathered around and gobbled the scratch as fast as they could. There was one little chicken, though, who kept trying to get some food, but the larger ones kept pecking her out of the way.

Grandpa said the chick’s name was Peep. Grandma had raised her from an egg, but she had been having trouble fitting in with the others. The more dominant hens pecked the lower ranking hens, and they in turn passed it on. It appeared that Peep was the lowest in the pecking order. They were all mean to her. Each one she passed pecked her on the back of the head. She already was missing a patch of feathers. All the girls were getting upset over how Peep was being treated.
Suddenly one hen she passed pecked her hard and drew blood. All the rest turned on her then. Squawking loudly, they began to viciously peck at poor Peep. They would have caused a lot of harm had Grandpa not rescued her in time. He put her in a pen nearby and said she needed to grow a little more so she could defend herself better.

While the girls were exclaiming over how mean the hens were, one of the girls spotted the little crippled girl standing all by herself and remembered how they had all gossiped about her. No one had bothered to make friends with her. The thought came, “Why, we’re nothing but a bunch of snippy hens!”

Then she went back to the little crippled girl and said, “Come up to the front with me, Anna; you can see much better up here.” Anna shyly took her hand and went forward to the fence.
On the way back to the house for their cookies, instead of only twelve giggling girls, now there were thirteen. They all walked slowly, keeping pace with the one could not go very fast. And they were ALL smiling.

**Burden to impart:** We should consider other people’s feelings and rejoice with those who rejoice, and mourn with those who weep, and go along with the lowly.

**Verse to teach:** “rejoice with those who rejoice, and mourn with those who weep... “and go along with the lowly” Rom. 12:15 & 16
ON GRANDPA’S FARM

A FLOCK OF DUCKS

“Grandpa is calling the ducks to come out into the woods”, Grandma told Peter and Louis as she looked out the window. The boys rushed over and saw the ducks running across the yard. They looked so funny, running together in one big group. They were not like the chickens that always fought and squabbled with each other, and didn’t seem to care about each other at all.

As they watched, Grandpa’s big dog, Goliath, came around the corner and startled them. The ducks scattered noisily. Even after Goliath had gone, the ducks continued quacking in alarm. “QUACK! QUACK! QUACK! QUACK! QUACK!”

“I had better go see what the problem is”, said Grandma, “maybe one of the ducks got himself stuck; they hate being separated from each other. Let’s see if we can help.”
They all trooped out to the yard, and sure enough, one of the ducks was trapped in the bushes, quacking frantically. All the other ducks stood around quacking back at him. Their friend was scared and alone, and they would not leave him by himself.

Grandma and Peter chased the frightened duck back through the opening in the bushes. The unhappy duck ran to rejoin his friends. Everyone quacked their joy at being back together again. Moving as one flock, they continued their journey out to the woods.

With the crisis over, Grandma and the boys went back to make breakfast. Along the way, Louis told Grandma about the time he had fallen out of a tree and hurt his ankle, and Peter stayed with him and kept calling for help until Dad came. “It wasn’t a big deal”, Peter said blushing, “I’m the big brother; that’s my job.” Grandma gave both boys a big hug.

**Burden to impart:** We are our brother’s keeper (Gen. 4:9)

**Verse to teach:** “….let us love one another…John 4:7”
ON GRANDPA’S FARM

PEA SOUP

At their grandparents’ farm, Peter and Luis would go out in the morning and play with some little animals. One day their neighbor Jonny came over to play with them.

After playing for a few hours, he invited them to eat at his house. They went to ask their grandmother for permission and when she said ‘yes’ they raced out of the farm.

When they arrived at Jonny’s house the first person they met was his mother, and even though she smiled a bit, the children noticed a certain sadness in the expression on her face. They also met Jonny’s father; he was a tall, strong-looking man. These were the parents of their little friend. Once dinner was served, they sat at the table and when Jonny’s mother served the soup, he yelled at her and said that he did not want the soup because it had peas; he got angry, threw the plate on the floor and got up from the table. Peter and Luis were shocked at the way Jonny treated his mother.
It made them feel very bad inside. When they returned to their grandfather’s farm, Luis and Peter told their grandparents what had happened at Jonny’s house. While they were telling their grandparents what had happened, their grandfather noticed that this had made them both feel a bit sad. Then he had a great idea!

Grandfather offered to have their friend Jonny over for breakfast the next day. So they went very early to pick up Jonny. When they arrived back at the farm, the grandmother was preparing a yummy, delicious, breakfast. Peter and Luis did their part, washed their little hands and asked if they could help in any way. Their grandmother said that they could set the table. They did it happily. Jonny felt strange as he silently watched everything they did.
When they sat down at the table to eat, they prayed and thanked the Lord for the food and asked that they would always be together; they also prayed for Jonny’s family and for him. When they finished with breakfast grandpa took them for a walk in the fields.

While they walked he gently spoke to them about how important it is for us to respect our parents always. He explained: “our parents are the people that love us the most and therefore, we should do everything possible to respect and obey them, otherwise, our parents will be very sad and unhappy people, since nothing makes a parent sadder than the disobedience or insult of his own child.”
When he heard this, Jonny remained quiet and at that moment he remembered the sad look on his mother’s face when he didn’t want to take the soup she brought to him. When they came to the edge of the farm, Jonny thanked everyone for breakfast and especially the grandparents and ran to his house. When he arrived, he asked his father and mother to forgive him for his terrible behavior the day before. His parents felt so happy that their son had such a change in attitude and they gave him great big hug.

**Burden to impart:** We should honor our parents, for they are the source of many blessings in our lives; we should love and appreciate them.

**Verse to teach:** “…and be thankful”. Colossenses 3:15
ONE GRANDPA’S FARM

GRANDMA’S SURPRISE

One sunny morning, Luis and Peter were running around outside playing ball. Grandma called, “Luis! Peter! I need you to come with me to the hen house!” Grandma wanted to surprise the boys with a special treat—watching baby chicks hatching from their eggs. She knew that the eggs that one of the hens was sitting on should be hatching out baby chicks today.

“But we want to play ball!” cried Luis and Peter together. “Can’t we feed the chickens later?” Grandma was disappointed with their answer, but she didn’t want them to miss this opportunity; they had never seen chicks hatch. She decided to give them another chance.
“No, this can’t be done later. I need you to come now,” she replied patiently. Then she added, “But if you don’t want to, you don’t have to come.” “Ok,” the boys said, sort of grumbling, “we’re coming.” Together they went into the hen house. The boys were puzzled that Grandma didn’t go get corn to feed the chickens; instead she went into where the hens laid their eggs.
As they stood around one of the hens they could hear a faint peeping from underneath her soft fluffy feathers. Grandma gently moved the hen aside so they could see the eggs.

Four little chicks were already sitting on the straw, and two chicks were in the process of kicking their way out of their shells. The last chick was cracking his shell open from the inside. “Wow, Grandma! We’ve never seen chicks hatch before,” exclaimed Luis. Peter said, “How funny they look; they are all wet and wobbly.” This is fun, I’m sure glad we didn’t miss it”, said Luis.

Grandma smiled and said. “I’m glad you didn’t miss out on your surprise too,”

**Burden to impart:** Disobedience results in loss, while obedience may prove very gratifying.

**Verse to memorize:** Ephesians 6:1: Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.
ON GRANDPA’S FARM

CAVE IN

“Grandpa, Grandpa”, the boys shouted as they burst excitedly into the kitchen, “Come and see what we found!” “It’s a cave in the hillside; it would make a great fort!”

Grandpa put his fork down, and said, “I know what cave you are talking about. Isn’t it all covered over with boards?” “It was,” Peter said, “but we pried them off. They were pretty rotten.”

Grandpa said, “The boards aren’t there to be pried off; they are there to keep curious little boys out. It is a dangerous cave; it used to be a mine.” I want you boys to stay out of there, or you might get hurt.

Luis and Peter didn’t think the cave looked dangerous and they very much wanted to explore it. Luis had a stubborn, pouting look on his face, but Grandpa didn’t notice. He was trying to figure out what he would need to reseal the mine.
As soon as the boys got back outside, Luis began complaining, “Grandpa just doesn’t want us to have any fun. The cave isn’t dangerous.” Peter silently agreed, but he knew better than to directly contradict what Grandpa said. Since he already had plans for how he would fix up his fort, this was a real disappointment to him.

“I’m going to go look at it,” Luis said with a determined look on his face. “Maybe it’s not as dangerous as Grandpa thinks.”

Peter worriedly followed Luis as he took the path to the mine. When they arrived at the cave Luis went inside and looked around and said, “See, it’s not dangerous; it’s just a big hole with boards that make it like a room.” “Luis, you shouldn’t do that; Grandpa said to stay out,” Peter told him. “IT’S NOT DANGEROUS!” Luis hollered as he kicked at the boards.

Suddenly, there was a rumbling sound, and then the entrance of the mine collapsed. Peter was horrified. Luis was gone! “Luis, Luis, where are you?! Peter yelled, “Are you ok? Luis! Luis!” Faintly he heard Luis saying, “I’m here, but it’s so dark. Let me out; I’m scared.” Luis began crying loudly.
Peter realized that he had no way to get Luis out. “I’m going to get Grandpa”, he yelled to Luis. “I’ll be right back.” Peter ran back down the path, but before he had gone very far he saw Grandpa coming towards him with a wheelbarrow full of boards, a hammer, and a can full of nails.

“Grandpa! Grandpa! The cave fell down and Luis is stuck inside!” Peter called. Grandpa began running to the mine. “Luis, can you hear me?” he said as loudly as he could when he got there.

“Yes Grandpa”, Luis sobbed. “I’m so sorry I disobeyed you.” “We will talk about that later,” Grandpa said, “but first we have to get you out of there.”

Grandpa got a shovel and began to dig. He dug all afternoon, and through dinnertime. Peter could tell that Grandpa was getting tired, but he never stopped digging.

Finally, Grandpa broke a hole through the barrier. It didn’t take Grandpa long to make the opening big enough to pull Luis through. Luis was dirt from head to foot, except for the clean streaks where his tears had slid down.
Grandpa passed Luis over to Grandma who gave him a big hug. Peter gave him a hug too. He was so glad that his little brother was safe. How foolish they were to think that Grandpa just didn’t want them to have any fun! He loved them and just wanted to keep them safe! Peter decided that he would always obey Grandpa and make sure Luis did too.

Grandpa said, “Let’s go home and get some hot chocolate. We’ll talk about this in the morning.” They walked home holding hands, glad that everyone was safe.

**Burden to impart:** Our parents give us rules for our good. They are made by people who care for us and who are trying to help us.

**Verse to teach:** Honor your father and your mother... that it may be well with you...Eph. 6:2-3
ON GRANDFATHER’S FARM

THE RIVER

One afternoon, while Peter and Luis were talking with their parents on the phone about how fun it was to spend their vacation with their grandparents, they heard in the distance voices of children yelling and laughing; Grandpa and Grandma looked at each other and smiled, as if they were having the same thought: “I know what we can do with the boys tomorrow”.

As the boys said goodbye, their grandparents heard them say: “Yes Dad, we’ll do it.”

After they hung up the phone Luis asked: “Grandpa, what are those voices we hear?” Peter added: “Why, are those kids yelling and laughing; what could it be Grandpa?” The grandparents looked at each other once again and smiled, and then Grandpa answered, “Sometimes a family comes here to play in the river. Obviously, they have come today”. “Ohhhh, then that’s what it is ...” Luis and Peter said looking through the window, straining to see if there were any boys their ages. “Can we go play in the river too?” they asked at the same time.
Grandfather proposed that the three of them go the next day. He had some chores to finish today. Peter happily said yes, but Luis begged, “Please Grandpa, can’t we go right now?” Grandfather said, “It’s too late today, Luis; by the time we get there the sun will be going down.” Luis lowered his head and said disappointedly, “O.K. Grandpa.”

Then, he ran off with Peter to ride bikes.

They rode to the end of the driveway, when Luis suddenly took off towards the river. Peter was scared and started yelling: “Luis, Luis! Come back! Grandpa’s going to take us tomorrow! Come back, Luis!” Luis pretended not to hear him and continued towards the river. Peter rode back to the house to let their grandparents know.

Suddenly, coming toward Luis down the road was a giant bull. Luis knew how mean bulls could be, and he was really scared, so he ran his bicycle into a bush to hide. As Luis stood behind the bush he saw that Grandpa’s neighbor was following behind his cows as they were walking down the road, and that the bull was going in front of them all. Luis hid himself behind the bush until they all passed by.
After they passed by, he got up and dusted himself off. Right then he saw Grandpa’s truck coming in his direction. He felt so ashamed of his disobedience that he began to cry. Few times had Luis felt so bad about being disobedient; he was truly sorry. When Grandfather and Peter arrived they hugged him and comforted him.

Once home, Peter asked, “Remember what Dad told us to do, Luis?” “What did your Dad tell you to do?” Grandpa asked them. Luis lowered his head and mumbled, “He told us to obey you and Grandma the same as we obey Dad and Mom.” Grandpa nodded his head and said in a serious tone, “It is very important for you to obey, Luis, even if you don’t understand or agree, otherwise, you could get hurt. The river can be dangerous for a small boy.” “A bull can be dangerous for a small boy too,” Luis thought as he said, “I’m sorry I disobeyed you, Grandpa.”

**Burden to impart:** Respect authority by obeying.

**Memory verse:** “Children, obey your parents in the Lord.” Eph. 6:1a
“You shall rise up before the grayheaded and honor the face of the old man....”
Leviticus 19:32a
ON GRANDFATHER’S FARM

LOST

On a rainy night while grandfather was having a snack of hot chocolate together with Peter and Luis, grandmother walked about the kitchen trying to finish the shopping list that she would do the next day. Slowly, Peter came close to her and asked her: “Grandmother, what are you doing?” she answered: “I am finishing the shopping list because tomorrow I am going into town very early for a few things I need”. Peter asked if he could go with her and she said it was not a problem for her, but to ask his grandfather to see what he said.

While Peter was asking his grandfather if he could go with his grandmother, Luis heard him and he also asked their grandfather to let him go with their grandmother and Peter. After telling them that they must mind her instructions, their grandfather gave them permission.

In the morning, the three of them headed for town to do the shopping. Once they arrived they began to shop and shop and shop. After a while Peter said he was bored and tired. Luis said he was too, but that they were already there and they should just wait.
When Grandmother finally came to the last place, where she usually buys the flour, the boys noticed a small park and immediately asked if they could go there while she finished shopping. She said that this time it was not possible because she would be busy and would not be able to watch over them, but that she promised to take them later together with Grandfather. They kind of dropped their heads in disappointment as they continued walking. Once they arrived at the flour warehouse, Grandmother asked them to wait for her at the entrance while she did the shopping.

They stayed in the place where she told them, but a minute had not passed when Peter proposed to Luis to go to the park that they had just seen for a little while. Luis told him that their grandmother had already told them that she would take them later, and furthermore, their grandfather had told them to obey their grandmother in everything. Peter was not happy with what Luis told him. He got up from the chair where his grandmother had left him and began to walk towards the park. Luis told him again and again that he should not go, but Peter paid no attention at all and just kept on walking. When their grandmother returned, Luis was nearly in tears because of what had happened. Their grandmother got very worried and asked a policeman for help. He went with them to the park and helped them to look for Peter, but at the same time they were looking for him, Peter left the park and tried to return to the warehouse. Without noticing it he had taken the wrong way back. Soon he got confused and no matter how much he tried to find the flour warehouse he could not find it. He felt so alone, so frightened, and so desperate, he began to cry and slowly walked back to the park.
He was so happy when the policeman found him and took him back to his grandmother. She had been so worried about him! When she saw him she gave him a big hug and a kiss.

When they arrived home they told Grandfather what had happened. Grandfather felt very bad about Peter’s disobedience, and gently explained to him and to Luis how dangerous it can be to get lost and perhaps never see their parents and family again. Peter felt so bad in his heart about what he had done; he realized that he had made a big mistake to ignore his grandmother’s words. He asked them both for forgiveness. They forgave him right away and gave him a big hug.

Even though Luis did not disobey his grandmother and go to the park with Peter, he also learned the lesson: We should not disobey those who are watching over us no matter how bored we are!

Burden: For our children to learn obedience.

Verse: “You shall rise up before the grayheaded and honor the face of the old man.”
Leviticus 19:32a
ON GRANDFATHER’S FARM

THE WORKSHOP

While Grandma prepared a yummy lunch, the boys ran around looking for Grandpa. “Grandpa! Grandpa! Where are you? Grandma, have you seen Grandpa?” “No, he’s not here. He’s feeding the animals and doing his morning chores, but he’ll be here any minute for lunch. Why are you in such a hurry to find him? What’s the matter?” Grandma asked. Peter and Luis looked at each other as if they were hiding something….

“Ok, you tell her, Luis; tell Grandma what we want to ask Grandpa.”

Luis said. “While we were playing, we ran into Jonny. He told us that this weekend his teacher promised to come and give a workshop called “Recycle to Play”. She said that all the kids who were free that day could go. Grandma, we want to go; may we go, pleeeeeease?” Grandma smiled and said, “Maybe; let’s wait for Grandpa to come in, and ask him.”

When Grandpa arrived, the boys asked him if they could go to the workshop. They continued to talk about the matter during lunch, and finally their grandparents said “yes.”

On Saturday, the boys went to the workshop together with their friend Jonny. He introduced them to his classmates and his teacher. They all welcomed them. After quieting all the students down, the teacher began to tell them the purpose of the “Recycle to Play” workshop.
The students were divided into teams. Using the materials they had brought, including some empty milk cartons, each team cooperated to build a train. When they were finished, the teacher said, “I need your attention, class”, and began to give them the list of materials that they would need to bring the next afternoon. While she was doing this, Peter ignored her and continued to play with the train.

The teacher said, “Play time is over for today, Peter and I need you to give me your attention.” Peter only stopped for a moment and then began to play again. Luis frowned at him, and shook his head, but Peter whispered, “She’s not my teacher, and besides, I can listen and play at the same time.” After the teacher finished giving instructions, she said, “I’ll see you all tomorrow.”
When the boys returned home, they told their grandparents everything that they had done. Their grandparents were happy until they noticed something strange about Luis’ expression. Grandpa asked, “Is there something else you would like to say, Luis?”

Luis said, “Tell them Peter”. Peter hung his head, and mumbled that the teacher had talked to him after the workshop. “Well,” Grandpa said, “What did she say?” Luis broke in, “Peter disobeyed her and wouldn’t quit playing with the train when she was talking.”

Grandpa raised his eyebrows and said, “Is that true, Peter?” Peter, with a red face, hurriedly gave his excuses, “She’s not my teacher; she’s Jonny’s teacher, and anyway, I can listen while I’m playing.” But even as he spoke, he realized his excuses were not really a reason for him to disobey her.

Grandma then said, “What you did is not at all right, Peter. The teacher sacrificed two days out of her vacation in order to come give that workshop so that you could have fun making a train. Don’t you think she deserves respect and attention for that?”

Peter, feeling very ashamed of his attitude towards the teacher, said disappointedly, “I don’t think I’ll go tomorrow”. Grandma said, “You made a mistake, but there is a better way to correct your mistake than just staying home. What you should do is to go to the workshop and apologize to the teacher. And this time, pay complete attention when she is speaking.”
Luis noticed that Peter was sort of sad after that so he told him that they could work together to search for the materials they would need the next day. With a little encouragement Peter joined Luis the next day and they returned together to the workshop with Jonny. In spite of his embarrassment, Peter went up to the teacher and said, “I’m sorry that I disobeyed you yesterday.” She smiled and said, “I’m happy to forgive you and I am glad that you returned to the workshop.”

Peter never forgot these two lessons: Always obey your teachers, even if they are your teacher for only one day, and apologizing when you do something wrong not only feels better but it also gives you a new start.

**Burden to impart:** It is important to obey our teachers and to apologize when we do something wrong.

**Memory verse:** Obey the ones leading you and submit to them. Hebrews 13:17a
“Come see, Grandpa! Come see my new compass!” Peter exclaimed as Grandpa came into the kitchen. “I got it at the store with the money I had saved up and now I can always tell where I am.”

“Let me see that Peter”, said Grandpa. After looking it over, Grandpa handed it back and said with a smile, “Well, it might be okay to find your way around the yard, but I wouldn’t want to rely on it in the woods.”

Peter said, “Come on Luis, let’s go see how it works.” They boys ran out into the yard and began figuring out what direction everything was in. They found that the house was north of the barn, and south of the road. They happily spent the warm afternoon pretending they were explorers of the wild west.

Then Peter got the idea of seeing if he could find his way home from the woods that were nearby, like a real explorer. He had been warned not to go there by himself, as he could easily get turned around and lost. Luis reminded him, “Grandpa said not to go there by ourselves, Peter.”
Peter replied, “That’s because he is afraid we’ll get lost. But with my compass we won’t get lost. I can find my way anywhere.”

Luis was worried, “I don’t think that’s a good idea, Peter. Maybe we should ask Grandpa to take us.” “No”, Peter said, “I know I won’t get lost, and besides, Grandpa is taking a nap. We’ll be back before he wakes up.”

“But it is getting late, what if it gets dark and we can’t find our way home?” Luis fretted.

“I can find my way home; I can find my way anywhere I want,” declared Peter emphatically. “I’m going to go. You can come or not.”

Peter started off toward the woods, with compass in hand, and Luis trailing unhappily behind. After what seemed like a long time, they finally entered the trees. Luis said, “Let’s not go very far, just in case.” “Just in case of what?” Peter said. “I am an expert at finding my way around. I’m not going to get lost!” Peter pressed stubbornly forward, checking his compass frequently, until they were well within the trees. All the trees looked the same to Luis; he couldn’t tell which way was which.
“Ok, let’s start back now”, Peter said as he studied his compass. “It’s that way”. He moved confidently forward. Luis had to hurry to keep up. They walked for what seemed like enough time to have gotten out of the woods, but the trees still seemed pretty thick. “Aren’t we there yet?” Luis asked, “I’m getting tired, and hungry...and thirsty.”

Peter checked his compass again. “I’m sure we are almost there,” he said and started off again.

Luis noticed that the warm friendly sunshine was all gone now, and it was getting cool. They weren’t wearing jackets, since it had been warm when they set out. Luis’ teeth began chattering. “I’m cold, Peter,” he said.

“We’re almost there, I tell you,” Peter assured him, hiding the worry that was welling up in him. They should have been out of the woods by now. He was getting cold, tired, hungry, and thirsty too.” His adventure wasn’t fun anymore.

After walking a while longer, it was getting so dark that they couldn’t see anything. Strange noises—howls, croaks, and twitters—could be heard that scared the boys. Finally Peter admitted, “I’m lost. I don’t know why, but I can’t find the way out.” Luis was sniffiling as he tried to keep back his tears. Peter could feel tears welling up in his eyes too. He thought to himself, “Why, oh why, was I so stubborn about insisting we come to the woods? Why did I bring Luis with me into this? Why didn’t I leave Grandpa a note?”

“Come on, let’s quit walking”, he said. “Let’s lean against this tree and wait. Maybe Grandpa can find us.” The exhausted and miserable boys sat down against the tree. Peter put his arm around his little brother as much to comfort him as for warmth, and they both promptly fell asleep.

Luis woke with a start as a bug crawled across his arm. He slapped it off, and then heard off in the distance the barking of search dogs. “Peter, Peter, I hear something, wake up!” He exclaimed. Peter woke up groggily, and then realized, “It must the neighbor with his hunting dogs. Maybe they are looking for us. Let’s yell!”

“Grandpa! Grandpa!” Both boys called at the top of their lungs, “we’re over here!” Now they could hear the sound of crashing in the bushes, as the searchers came closer. Then they could hear voices calling their names. “Grandpa, Grandpa!” they yelled again. Lights could now be seen bouncing around through the trees.

The searchers finally found them. The search dogs bounded toward the boys, jumping on them and licking them happily. Both boys were sobbing in relief. Grandpa came over and wrapped them in a big hug, as though he had been scared too. After a few minutes, he passed the boys some supplies Grandma had thoughtfully sent along.
There were warm jackets, water bottles, and sandwiches. The boys gratefully took them.

Grandpa loaded them on Jack, and they headed home, glad that their adventure was over.

**Burden:** We should all learn to listen to the counsel of those in authority, and not be stubborn.

**Verse to memorize:** Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts....
Hebrews 3:15
AT GRANDFATHER’S FARM

IT FEELS BETTER TO TELL THE TRUTH

Every morning, Grandpa made his rounds on the farm to make sure everything was all in order. Peter and Luis always tagged along to “help”. One morning the boys noticed a nasty looking scar on Grandpa’s hand. “How did you get that, Grandpa?” Peter asked curiously. “Did you get scratched by a bear, maybe?” Luis added, hoping for an exciting story. Grandpa smiled and answered, “No, nothing that interesting, Luis.”

“One day when I was small, while my mother was washing laundry, I took a melon and tried to cut a few slices for us kids. I knew I was disobeying my mother’s orders to not touch the knives; they were very sharp, and I was very little. Anyway, I didn’t just cut the melon. My hand was too small for the knife and I ended up cutting my hand pretty badly as well.
Mother heard a noise in the kitchen and asked me what I was doing. “Uh, nothing”, I said as I looked for a towel to try to stop the bleeding. I was getting pretty scared because it was bleeding a lot. But as soon as Mother walked into the kitchen, she immediately knew what had happened. She quickly put a clean paper towel over the cut and held it there until the bleeding stopped. She put a special band aid on it so I wouldn’t have to have stitches, and then wrapped it up in gauze.

She didn’t scold me, but I knew that I had disobeyed her, and then when she asked what I was doing, I lied to her. I felt very bad and I asked her for forgiveness. And even though she forgave me, the scar never went away. It became my reminder to not lie to my mother again.”

The children were very surprised to hear what their grandfather had told them. Grandpa noticed that Peter looked uneasy about something. “What’s the matter Peter, is something bothering you?”, he asked. Peter hurriedly said: “No, no; it’s nothing.” Grandpa could tell something was bothering him, but he didn’t push Peter to answer.

After the trip around the farm, they returned home for lunch. On the way, Grandpa could tell that something was gnawing at Peter. Finally, when they were almost home Peter couldn’t keep it in any longer.

“Grandpa, if someone says something so that his parents won’t scold him, is it still a lie?” “Yes,” his grandfather answered and continued, “No one likes to be scolded, but we all make mistakes; whether we are children or adults. It is always best to admit our mistakes, instead of making them worse by lying about them. It is especially important to tell the truth to your parents, because some mistakes can be fixed if they know about them in time.”

Peter looked at Luis and told him, “Luis, do you remember that time when father’s bicycle tire went flat?” “Yes,” Luis answered, “well the truth is that I was the one who used it and after that the tire went flat; but I was afraid to tell the truth and that is why I lied.”
Just then, they all heard the sound of a car coming down the driveway. Grandpa said, “Children, your parents are here, they came to visit us for a few days.” Luis got very excited, but Peter looked sad and sorry. Then Grandpa said, “Peter, perhaps today you should tell your father the truth and ask forgiveness for having lied to him.” Peter nervously took a deep breath, but he didn’t say anything.
They went into the house and greeted their parents. Peter blurted out his confession and asked his father for forgiveness. His father forgave him; he was happy to have the mystery of the flat tire solved. They all spent a wonderful day together, including Peter who learned that no matter what happens, it always feels better to tell the truth.

**Burden to impart:** it feels better to tell the truth

**Memory verse:** “…speak truth each one with his neighbor…” Ep
ON GRANDPA’S FARM

DON’T HIDE THE TRUTH

It was a beautiful sunny morning on Grandpa’s farm. Grandma and Mother were bustling around in the kitchen, while Dad and Grandpa chit-chatted over their coffee. Peter and Luis ran in to wash their hands when Grandma clanged the old farm bell. Then everyone sat down to a yummy breakfast of fried eggs, fresh milk, juice, and freshly baked bread. There was much discussion of farm business, like the price of hay, the fish hatch in the river, and how many eggs the hens were producing. Peter and Luis told their mother about the time they saw fuzzy little chicks hatching out of their shells.

After the breakfast dishes were cleaned up, Grandma said to Luis, “I’m going to collect the eggs now; would you like to help?” Luis turned to his mother and said, “Will you come too, Mommy?” “Sure,” she replied enthusiastically. “This isn’t something we city folk get to do very often.”

Grandpa, Dad, and Peter went out to milk the cows while little Luis went out to the chicken coop with his mother and grandmother. Having finished their morning “chore” of laying eggs, the hens were already in the yard pecking at the corn. Mother was surprised to see how many eggs were left in the nests. Grandmother remarked, “They seem to have laid more eggs than usual this morning.” Luis was already reaching for an egg when Grandma said, “Be very careful when you put the eggs in the basket, Luis, that you don’t crack one shell against another. We don’t want to lose any.”

Luis, wanting to show his mom what a good egg-collector he was, didn’t slow down at all; he picked up two at a time. Grandma said, “Luis, only pick up one at a time and put it into the basket, or you might drop them.” Grandma and Mom didn’t seem to be in any hurry as they moved down the row of nests, talking and laughing.

When they weren’t looking, Luis picked up three eggs at once. Suddenly, just as Grandma feared, Luis dropped all three of the eggs. They landed with a slight “crack” on the ground.
He saw the pieces of shell on the ground, and before anyone could see, he covered them with some straw and hid them. When Grandma heard all the activity in his direction she asked, “Is everything alright Luis? I thought I heard something; what was it?” Luis answered nervously, “Nothing Grandma, I think that the noise you heard came from outside.” After telling this little lie he continued gathering eggs, but this time more slowly and a lot more carefully.

When they returned to the kitchen, Grandma told Luis that she would prepare his favorite dessert because he had helped them collect the eggs so well. Luis smiled weakly. He felt uneasy at her praise. All he could think about were those three eggs sitting broken in the coop. He had not only broken three whole eggs while disobeying Grandma, but if they were discovered, everyone would know he had covered it up, and then lied about it too. He had done three wrong things for the three eggs he had broken. All day long, Luis could think of nothing else.
Hours later, Luis saw his mother heading toward the hen house to return the egg basket. “Oh, no!” he thought, “She is going to find the broken eggs!” He wanted to run and hide. She was gone for what seemed to be hours.

Sure enough, when she returned, she was carrying the three broken eggs in her hand. She showed them to Grandma in the kitchen, and then they both turned to look at him. He could feel his face turn red. Mother said that she had seen something white on the floor in the hen house and when she went to look, she almost slipped on the gooey egg that was hidden under the straw. She said, “It was where you were collecting eggs, Luis. Is there anything you want to tell us?”

Luis hung his head, and with great relief, he confessed the truth to his mother and grandmother. “I did it, Grandma. I dropped them when I tried to pick up all three at once.” “So”, Grandma said, “you dropped them when you disobeyed me. What else did you do that you should not have done?” Luis said with a tremble in his voice, “I hid them, and didn’t tell you the truth when you asked.” Grandma said, “It is very hard to do only one wrong thing, Luis. It always gets bigger as we try to hide what we have done. I’m glad you told the whole truth so it didn’t keep growing and growing.”
“I’m sorry Grandma,” Luis said with tears in his eyes. “I forgive you,” Grandma said, “There now, it’s all over; let’s think about something more pleasant. How about that dessert?” She gave him a kiss as Mother brought their dessert over to the table. They could hear Grandpa, Dad, and Peter come into the house. “It’s dessert time!” Luis called out happily. He felt so light-hearted now that the guilt on his conscience was cleared up.

**Burden:** For our children to learn to always speak the truth.

**Verse to memorize:** He who covers his transgressions [sins] will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.

*Proverbs 28:13*
ON GRANDFATHER’S FARM

A HORSEBACK RIDE

Peter and Luis were excited as their parents pulled into the driveway for a visit. Although, they were enjoying their vacation at Grandpa’s farm, they were feeling a little homesick. Their parent’s visit made the boys’ farm vacation complete.

The next day was going to be “horseback riding day”. Peter and Luis really looked forward to riding horses. After breakfast, Grandpa gave everyone instructions, “The horses are usually very tame and gentle,” he said, “but they are animals. They are big, strong, and can run fast, so you have to be careful how you treat them,” Grandpa said. “Just let them walk in a line following the leader. Do NOT kick them, as that can make them run.” Everyone nodded and agreed they would obey the rules.

Little Luis rode on the same horse as his father, but Peter got his own horse. So Grandpa led the way, with Peter following him, and Dad and Luis bringing up the rear. Mom and Grandma waved them off; they were going to stay home and make cookies for lunch.
The boys had a great time during the trip. How fun it was to be way up high on so tall an animal! After awhile, Peter began feeling a little over confident about his skill at making the horse do what he wanted, and he got bored with the slow pace, so when no one was looking, he gave his horse a little kick. Immediately, it began trotting faster, startling Peter. Grandpa exclaimed: “Peter, stop spurring the horse, otherwise you won’t be able to control him!” Peter’s father added: “Peter obey your grandfather!” Peter answered: “Yes Dad.”

Peter’s horse slowed down to a walk and stayed in pace with the others as Grandpa pointed out all the interesting sights to them. All of a sudden Peter’s horse bolted and began to run wildly. Peter yelled, “Help! Help!”, as his horse ran through the trees.

As soon as Peter’s horse began to run, Grandpa spurred his horse into a run also. It didn’t take him long to overtake Peter’s horse and force him back to a walk. They circled around and came back to Luis and Peter’s father.
Peter was so scared he was almost crying, and his face stung where the branches had whipped him in passing. Dad said, “Peter, did you disobey Grandpa and kick your horse?” “No Dad; he just started to run all by himself”, Peter answered. Grandpa and Dad looked at each other. They knew Peter had lied, but they wisely decided to wait for Peter to calm down; maybe he would admit it himself.

The trip home was silent and uneventful. After they had put the horses in their stalls, they walked toward the house. The boys’ mother went to meet them and asked, “How did it go; did you have fun?” Luis excitedly told her, “Peter’s horse started running fast all by himself!” Observing Peter’s red, scratched face, she said, “Grandpa, did you give Peter a horse that was too wild for him?”

With that question Peter felt ashamed. He knew it was his fault, not Grandpa’s nor the horse’s. He was the one who had not followed instructions. Peter said, “I’m sorry I lied to you Dad and Grandpa. It wasn’t the horse’s fault. I kicked him. I just wanted him to go a little faster; I didn’t realize that he would start running like that.”
Dad put his arm around Peter as Grandpa said, “I forgive you for lying, Peter. But on the farm, it is important that you follow instructions or you can be injured very badly. It is also important that your word can be trusted. Those who are not reliable in following directions, and in what they say, don’t make good farm hands.”

“Yes, Grandpa”, Peter answered, “I do want to be a good farm hand, someday.” Grandpa smiled and patted him on the back, “I know you’ll do better next time, Peter”, Grandpa said, “Now, let’s go see about those cookies.”

**Burden:** For our children to learn to always speak the truth.

**Verse:** Neither shall you deceive or deal falsely with one another. Leviticus 19:11
ON GRANDFATHER’S FARM

STUBBORN AS A MULE

After breakfast, Grandpa went out toward the barn. It was time for Grandpa to trim the hooves of Old Jack, the mule, and give him a new set of shoes. They could hear Grandpa in the distance talking to Jack through the screen door, “Come on, old boy, it’s time to take care of your feet.”

As they finished their pancakes, Grandma gave the boys a choice; did they want Grandpa to take them to the river today or into town to the lamb auction? Peter and Luis sat looking at each other excitedly. Wow! Both choices sounded like such great fun!

“I want to go to the river!” Luis cried out. “I want to go to the auction!” Peter chimed in. “I’m sorry”, Grandma said, “You have only one Grandpa so you can only do one thing. You’ll have to agree to do the same thing.”

Then Peter said to Luis: “Remember the river is near here and we can always go there, but the lamb auction is only once a month.” Do you remember how much fun we had last time? We haven’t gone in a long time! Please Luis, don’t be stubborn!
As Grandma washed the dishes and straightened the kitchen, she heard the boys arguing back and forth. Peter kept reasoning with Luis, and Luis stubbornly refused to give in. Meanwhile, Grandpa was having his own problems. She could see him through the window trying to pull Jack toward the barn, but Jack just would not go. He couldn’t be pushed, and he couldn’t be pulled. He just sat down and looked off in the distance; he was totally unconcerned about Grandpa’s red face.

Grandpa was getting really frustrated and angry. “You fool mule, don’t you know this is for you own good?!!!”
Grandma, knowing that in the heat of things people sometimes forget common sense, had an idea.

She pulled a couple of carrots out of the refrigerator and asked the boys to take them to Grandpa. She said, “All your strength cannot make someone do something he doesn’t want to. The trick,” she said, “is to change want they want to do. Then it is easy.”

The boys ran across the yard to Grandpa with the carrots. As soon as Jack caught sight of the carrots he stood up. Grandpa gratefully let Peter lead the mule to the barn with the carrots.

On the way back to the house, Peter had a thoughtful look on his face. As they came into the kitchen, he said to Luis, “If you agree to go to the auction, I’ll buy you a candy apple with my chore money, and I’ll let you sit in front on the way up and back.”
Luis happily gave up wanting to go to the river; he loved riding in the front seat, but more than anything, he loved candy apples!

**Burden to impart:** We should listen to what other’s advice, and not be stubborn (like a mule).

**Verse to memorize:** You testified against them ... but... they turned a stubborn shoulder and stiffened their neck and would not listen. Nehemiah 9:29
ON GRANDFATHER’S FARM

THE STABLES

One afternoon as Grandpa was leaving the stables he noticed that the paint on the door was getting very faded. He thought, “Perhaps it is time to touch up the paint on this door.”

Back at the house, he greeted the boys, Peter and Luis, and their parents, who were still there visiting, and then he said to Grandma, “I’m going out to the tool shed to look for some paint.

As he was poking around the paint cans, little Luis came up behind him and asked, “What are you doing Grandpa? What are you looking for?” Grandpa answered, “I am looking for a can of paint that I saw around here recently.”

“And what are you going to paint?” Luis asked. “The stable door is very faded and I am planning to paint it tomorrow,” Grandpa responded as he looked around. Then he exclaimed: “Ah! Here it is! Tomorrow after the horses are let out I will paint the stable door. What do you think Luis, will you go with me?” “Of course Grandpa, I’ll go with you” Luis answered.

At dinner Grandpa told everyone that he and Luis would be painting the stable doors all morning. They would return at lunch time. Peter asked Grandpa if he could come too. Grandpa hesitated and then said, “Ok Peter, I’ll let you come, but you and Luis have to agree to be careful while I’m painting so we don’t have any accidents. I don’t want to have to clean up spilled paint.” Both agreed to behave and to not get into any mischief.

The next morning, Grandpa, Peter, and Luis left for the stables. Grandpa got out the paint, a pan, a scraper, and a couple paintbrushes. He said, “I sure hope there will be enough paint; it is going to be close. I can’t afford to waste any.” The boys watched as he used a scraping tool to scrape the loose paint off. He said, “the paint will just peel off if I don’t get the old loose paint off first.” Then he gave them each one and they started scraping. Luis scraped the bottom, Peter scraped the middle, and Grandpa scraped the top. He had to get up on a ladder to get the highest parts.

After the door had been thoroughly cleaned of the loose paint, he poured the fresh red paint into the pan and explained, “This is for the roller, which makes painting large spaces faster. I’ll use the smaller paintbrush when I get to the small areas and around the handle.”
Grandpa painted quietly for awhile as the boys watched. Then they heard a loud noise coming from behind the stables. Grandpa said, “wait here, boys, while I check it out.” Then he hurried to see what was making all the racket.

Peter decided he was going to see what was happening too. Luis grabbed his arm and said, “No Peter, Grandpa said to wait here. Maybe it is something dangerous!”

Peter said, “I’ll go see if I want to. I won’t get in the way; let me go!” Then he pushed Luis away to free his arm, and ran after Grandpa.

When Peter pushed him, Luis lost his balance. In trying to regain it, he stepped right into the pan of paint, knocking it over. Then he tripped over the pan and fell down hard. When he put his hand out to break his fall, he hurt his hand.

When Peter and Grandpa returned, Luis was crying and was smearing red paint all over his face, and clothes. There were red footprints all over the stable floor, and a puddle of red paint under the paint pan. However, there wasn’t much paint left in the paint pan.
Grandpa couldn’t believe the mess he had made. He exclaimed, “What have you done, Luis! You have wasted all my paint! And look at you!” Peter didn’t say anything. He just played innocent.

Luis then told them what had happened. Grandpa turned to Peter and said, “Peter, your actions are responsible for this—for the waste of my paint, and for your little brother’s injured hand.” Peter said, “It wouldn’t have happened if he hadn’t grabbed my arm!” Then Grandpa responded, “No Peter, it wouldn’t have happened if you had obeyed me in the first place. Your disobedience, has caused this mess, and has caused me to have to buy more paint. And furthermore, it has caused your little brother to hurt his hand.”

Peter stayed stubbornly silent. Finally, Grandpa said, “You need to apologize, Peter.” But Peter just stuck his chin in the air and refused to say anything. He thought to
himself, “It was Luis’ fault for grabbing me. None of this would have happened if he hadn’t grabbed me.”

Since the paint was no longer usable, and Luis was still crying over his hurt hand, Grandpa said it was time to go back to the house. “I’ll come back and clean up the mess after I drop you two off,” he said.

When they arrived back at the house, Grandpa explained to the boys’ parents what had happened and they became very upset with Peter. Peter said, “It’s his fault!” His mother just looked him in the eye and said, “Is it?” Under her steady gaze, Peter’s eyes dropped. He knew it was his fault; he just hadn’t wanted to take the blame. He did feel bad about Luis’ hurt hand. He was afraid it might even be broken.

Finally he said, “No, Grandpa was right. Everything happened because I didn’t obey him.” His mother said, “So, what do you need to do, Peter?”

Peter said to Grandpa, “I’m sorry I disobeyed you when you told us to stay still. It is really my fault that Luis spilled the paint, Grandpa. I would like to buy another can and pay for it out of my chore money.” Then he turned to Luis and said, “I’m sorry I hurt you, Luis.”
They of course forgave him. Luis even said that it almost didn’t hurt anymore and he smiled again. Grandpa gave Peter a big hug, and he even forgave his having to pay him back for the paint.

Peter learned that misbehaving can hurt more than one person.

**Burden to impart:** To make our children conscious of the negative consequences that our bad actions can bring.

**Memory verse:** And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ also forgave you. Ephesians 4:32

**Song:** No one is good