

(Some of the original NED stories, transcribed. See the “NED 1-24” for the booklet series.)

By CQ

Once there was a little boy who had curly, red hair and his name was Ned. He had a very special, blue, shiny vest, and he liked to wear it all day long.

Mommy said, “OK, Ned, put on your pajamas.” But Ned said, “But I like my vest.” Mommy said, “You can wear your vest when you wake up.” Ned started to cry, “But I want to wear my vest now.” But Mommy told him to put his pajamas on. So first he obeyed and put his pajamas on, but then he was lying in his bed thinking, ‘I want my vest.’ So guess what he did. He went and put his vest on anyway, even though Mommy told him to wear it the next day. But he put his vest on and he got back in bed, and he went to sleep. And when he woke up in the morning, guess what. His vest was all wrinkly and crinkly because he had slept on it all night.

The next morning Mommy said, “OK, let’s get nice and dressed. We’re going to go out. Oh, Ned, did you wear your vest when you went to sleep? Oh, Ned now you can’t wear it today because it’s all wrinkly and bumpy.” Ned was so sorry that he disobeyed and he didn’t leave his vest off so that it would be all nice the next morning.

The next night Mommy said to him, “OK, Ned, I made your vest all nice and flat again.” And Ned said, “Thank you, Mommy. I won’t wear it to bed tonight. I’ll save it for the morning.” He remembered his lesson, and then he went to sleep with his pajamas on. The next morning he woke up and his vest was all ready for him to wear. He put it on and he was so happy he could wear his new vest again.

The exciting day came for Ned and Tony to go to visit the fish pond where they were going to go fishing with Mr. Man. They drove up in their car and got out. “Oh, look! There it is!” Tony and Ned started running off to the water. “Just wait, boys,” said Mom. “It’s dangerous. Let’s go together.” And also she whispered more quietly to their ears, “It’s much more polite for us to wait until Mr. Man tells us when it’s time. Why don’t we go first to the house? I think he has a snack for us.” At first they were disappointed because they wanted to go right then to see the fish, but they remembered their manners and said, “Yes, Mommy.” They went in and sat at the kitchen table. Mr. Man said, “Hi, boys!” He gave them a snack to eat – some peanut butter and crackers, and had a banana milkshake. “And look over here!” He opened up a closet and inside were some fishing poles. “I want the blue one!” “I want the blue one!” There was a blue one and a golden colored one, but both boys wanted the blue one. Mom looked at them, and they knew they needed to stop yelling about which one they wanted. The older boy remembered that it was his responsibility to be loving to his younger brother, so he whispered, “That’s OK, Tony, if you really want the blue pole you can have it first. Maybe I could have a turn with the blue one later.” Tony had a big smile on his face. He was so thankful for a loving brother who shared his things with him. So Tony used the blue one first. They walked down to the pond and they saw the fish. There were several different kinds. After awhile Tony said, “Here, Ned, you can use the blue fishing pole now.” They got to share and each take a turn with it.

It was hot after awhile so they went back to the house for some nice, cold apple juice and some strawberries. "Well, it's about time we get going. Thank you for inviting us," said Mom. "Well, it was fun

(Ding dong) The doorbell rang just then. "Oh, that's my daughter with my grandson." They saw a lady at the door with a little boy about four years old. The mom whispered to them, "Remember to greet them." So the little boys went up and said, "Hi, I'm Ned." Tony said, "Hi, I'm Tony." They saw the little boy. The little boy had a new, red, shiny car in his hand. They both thought, *Oh, I would really like to have that car.* They were about to ask for it, and then they remembered they were visitors, and to be polite. Instead of saying 'I want to play with the other boy's car,' they said, "Come. We have some snack for you too." Then all the three boys sat together and they ate the snack, and they didn't ask for his car. They were very polite. After the snack time the boys said, "Can we go outside and play?" The mother said, "Maybe for a little bit you could, but soon we are going to go home."

The boys were outside while Mr. Man talked to Mommy a little bit more about heaven. He said, "What should I read from the Bible?" And Mommy talked to him about which things to read. "OK. It's time to go home now, boys," Mom said. At first the boys didn't want to go right away, and they pretended maybe they didn't hear Mommy, and they kept looking at the fish. Then Mommy said, "Boys!" And then they remembered 'Oops! We better be a good sample and obey right away.' "Yes, Mommy!" The man said, "Wow! You boys are so respectful to your mommy. You obeyed her right away. That makes me want to have you visit me again some day." "Yeah!" They were so happy that they were cheerful and obedient that they could come again next time. They got back in their car and waved goodbye to their new little friend that was visiting Mr. Man and his daughter Susan, and they drove away thinking, 'Wow! We had such a fun day at that new special garden park at the back of his yard.'

Two weeks later it was going to be Ned's birthday. He could hardly wait, and now was finally the day. When he woke up in the morning his nose felt a little bit stuffed up. He might be getting a cold. "Mommy," Ned said, "I don't feel so good." So Mommy put her hand on his forehead and he felt kinda hot. He had a fever. He started to cry. He was worrying that all the fun things weren't going to happen because he was feeling sick. "Don't cry," said Mommy. "The power of the keys can take away any ailment and can heal any sickness." So she called for Daddy and Brother to have some prayer. They said, "Jesus, we know You don't want us to be sick and hurting. I claim the keys of healing that Ned would get all better very, very quickly."

Then Mommy said, "I have an idea! Let's ask Jesus for some fun birthday things we can do even when you are in bed." So they prayed together and they wrote down some fun ideas that Jesus gave them that they could do. First they were planning to go have a soccer game for his birthday at the park, but now Ned was sick and he needed to rest. So their daddy came in with one of the ideas with a big box of blocks of wood, sandpaper, hammer and nail, and he said, "Let's make a special little house out of wood. We can make a little car garage." Ned was very happy. They made a little project together. They sanded the wood, banged some nails in, and made a little garage out of wood. Then

next Mommy and his little sister, Alissa, came in and said, "Surprise!" They brought a special yummy treat snack – strawberry, banana milkshake and oatmeal-raisin cookies. Ned had a big smile on his face. He was all surprised. "Oh, thank you!" Then they lit a candle. He said, "Do you want a turn?" Tony was so happy. "Really? You're going to share your birthday car with me?" Ned said, "Yeah. You are so sweet to share with." So then Tony had a turn while Ned got back in bed, and Mommy put her arms around him and gave him a nice, warm hug, and told him how much she loved him, and told him some stories about when he was a little baby, that he didn't remember. He had fun talk-time with Mommy.

Just then the telephone rang (ring). Mommy said, "I'll go and answer the telephone." It was Grandma saying, "I just wanted to talk to Ned and say 'Happy Birthday!'" Ned talked to Grandma on the telephone. Grandma said, "I love you! You are my sweet grandson, and I sent you a birthday card in the mail. I hope you receive it soon."

Then it was time for Ned to get in bed and rest. When he got in bed Daddy said, "I'm going to read you a special new heaven story while you rest in your bed and take your nap." Ned got under his covers and lied on his pillow. Daddy told him a special story and prayed and asked Jesus to tell him what was something that was special that was happening in heaven for his birthday. Then Ned had a real good nap, and when he woke up he was feeling so much better. He didn't have a fever anymore. The family all got together and watched a new 'Treasure Attic' show, and ate some more snacks altogether. Afterwards Ned said, "I had such a fun day, even if I couldn't go out to play the soccer and do the other things I wanted to do for my birthday. Jesus made it even funner. We had such a good time!" Daddy said, "Yes, that's because you were being praiseful and looking at the good you had fun." "Yeah!" That night Ned had a special dream. In it he dreamed about his flying horse in heaven, and going on a ride with Jesus through the stars, and doing some fun birthday activities with Jesus in heaven.

One day, Mr. Smiley (a friend of Mom's), who helped them with fish, telephoned them and said, "Would you like your boys to come and take a ride on my fishing boat?" She was sure they would. She told Mr. Smiley she would phone him back in the afternoon and let him know the answer. When she told Ned and Tony about it they were elated. "Yeah! We're so happy! We get to go on a boat!" They acted out swishing through the waves. So Mom got them ready in jackets because it would be a little bit breezy and cold on a fishing boat. They drove out late in the afternoon, and they met Mr. Smiley at the market. He was just closing up. They usually fished at night. They would have fished with him all night, but they had to go to bed. He let them sit in his boat and drive them out a bit. "Eew! You smell like fish!" Ned said. "Yes," said his mother, "That's what fishermen do, but let's be polite and not be too finicky about the smells."

(What does finicky mean? Wanting things just to be all perfect.)

So Ned put a smile on and said, "Hmmm, I kinda like the smell."

Mr. Smiley shook Mommy's hand and said, "Come and I'll show you my boat." Ned said, "That one over there?" Mr. Smiley looked over and it was a brown boat with fish nets on the edge. He said, "No, but it's right beside it. It's the white boat. The one with the red stripe on it." When they got

near they saw the man in the boat getting it ready to drive out. They usually went together with his friend the driver. Mr. Smiley said, "This is my friend Fred." He said, "Hi, Fred! This is Ned!" That's what he said. Then Ned said, "Hi, Fred!" Then they got on the boat. There were little seats.

There was Ned, and there was Fred, and Mr. Smiley, and there was Mom, and there was Tony his brother. They started driving out. The boat was swaying and going up and down with the waves a bit. "This is so fun!" said Ned, "Look over there!" Tony started pointing. "What is it, Tony? What is it?" "I think I saw a dolphin in the water. " I didn't know dolphins swam here." "I think it was a dolphin." They kept watching and didn't see anything for awhile, but then they saw it again. "It is! It is a dolphin! It's a dolphin! "That's amazing!" said Mr. Smiley. "I don't often see dolphins."

The man looked down on the floor of the boat and he saw a star shape. "What's that?" "That's a starfish. That must've come in with the net yesterday." Ned looked at it. "Can I please have it?" "Why sure," said Mr. Smiley. "You boys can take it home and keep it in your special collection."

(A collection is interesting things you can find.)

The waves started to get a little bit more crashing and wavy. The boat started swaying to and fro. "I think we better head back. It seems like a storm is coming. Maybe tonight is not a good night for fishing." "That was so fun to see!" "Yes, but it's getting late now. Come, I have a special surprise for you." So they drove back in their boat. They were just in the water and they drove to the land. "I wonder what the surprise is," Tony whispered. Ned said, "I guess we will just have to see." He gave each of the boys a bag filled with water, and in the water was a little goldfish. He gave each of them a goldfish. "These are not the kind I get when I go fishing," he said. "I got these at a pet shop just for you. Something to remember our special outing. They are fish you can take care of. When we went to the fish pond today we saw some goldfish, shiny fish. Mom said, "We have an old aquarium that we haven't used in awhile. I'll pull it out of the shed and we can put our goldfish in there." "Perhaps we could put the starfish in too," said Ned. "That's a good idea!" Mom said, "I think I have some shells in a bag in the drawer. We can decorate it with that." The boys were very excited and they went home. For Family Time they got their aquarium all set up so it looked like a little beach with shells, a starfish and they made sure there was fresh water for the fish.

"What do the fish eat?" "Oh," says Mommy, " I almost forgot!" And she pulled out of her pocket the fish food that Mr. Smiley gave her for the fish. "Now remember, just sprinkle a tiny bit on each day -- just one sprinkle -- and the fish will eat it. So they took turns. One day it was Ned's turn, and the next day it was Tony's turn. They took good care of their fish. They remembered