



Birthd**ay** Part**y**

NED—07

Birthday Party

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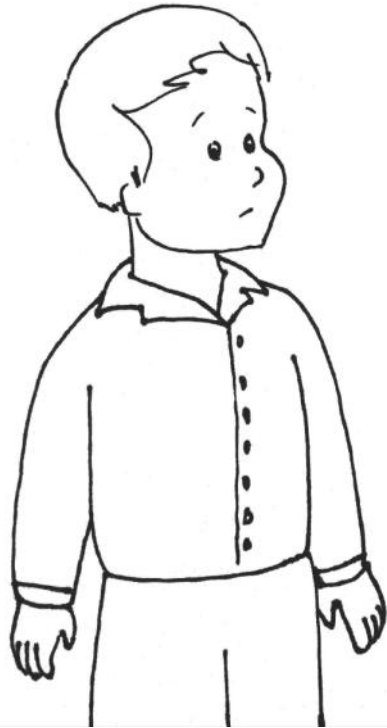
Dedicated to my three wonderful boys!



Ned was putting on his little bowtie and shiny black shoes, as he was going to his friend's birthday party, along with his family.

Just then Tony walked in.

He was also dressed in his nice clothes, but he didn't have his own bowtie. Tony started to cry. He wished he had what his older brother was wearing.



“Don’t cry, Tony. Why don’t you ask Mother if she knows where there is another one for you to use.”

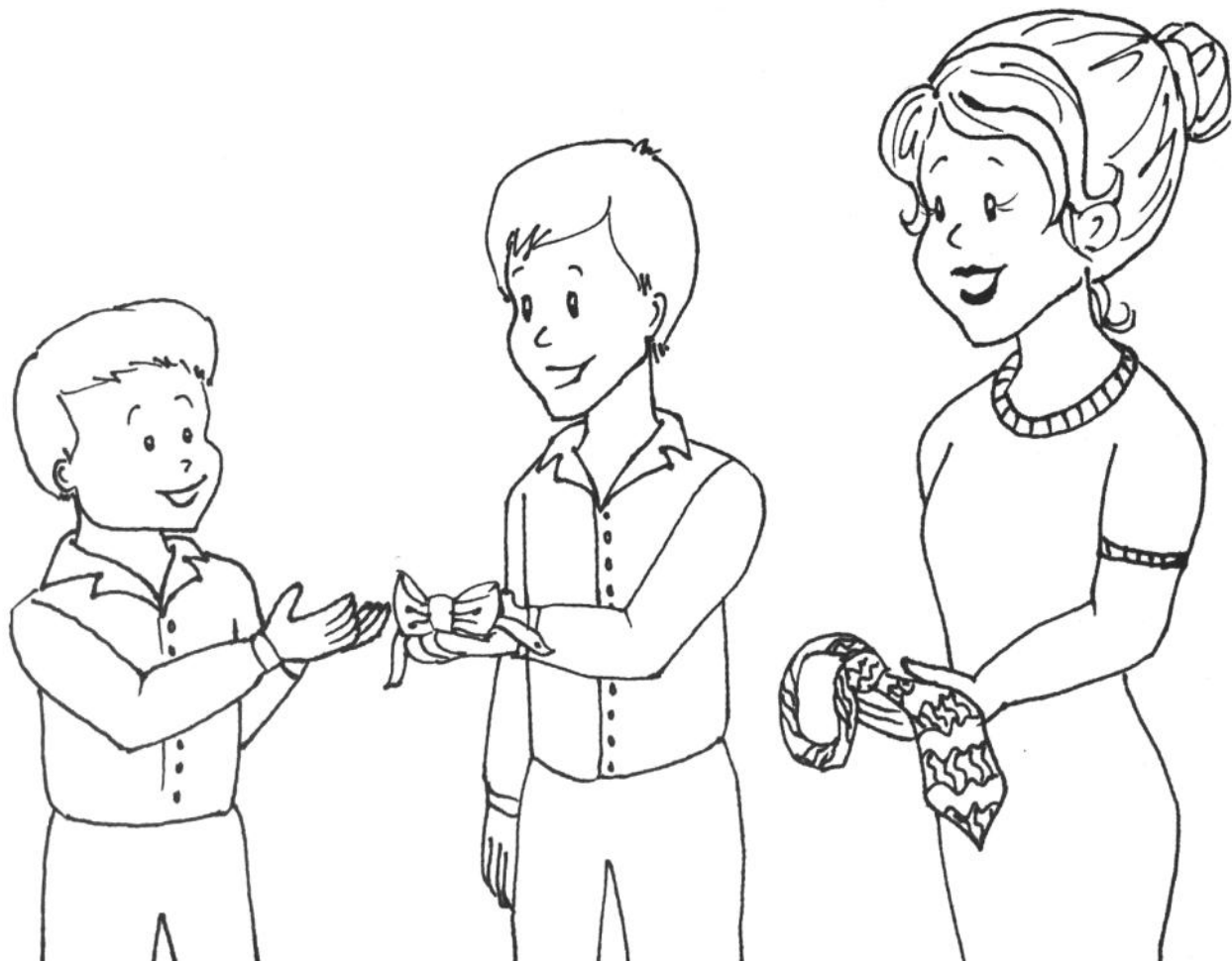
But even if Mother did have another tie for Tony, his heart was set on having one just the same type, if not the very one, that Ned was wearing.



Oh, dear, what should he do? It would be no fun going to a party if his brother was sad the whole time, feeling like he wasn't as fancily dressed as Ned.

Ned thought for a moment.

“Well, I do like this bowtie, but I love my brother more than it. And maybe if I give him a turn, he'll share it back again with me.”



Mother walked in just then, with a fun and colourful neck tie. It was the one that daddy used for doing skits.

“Tony, you can use my bowtie for a while, if you like. I can use the necktie. Then maybe later we can swap.”



Tony was very happy, and it made him love his older brother all the more. He thanked his brother, and then went to check if Teddy had something nice to wear as well.

Ned felt happy, and soon they all went to enjoy the time with their friends.

After about ten minutes Tony decided that he wanted the necktie more than the bowtie, as it looked so fun and fancy on Ned.

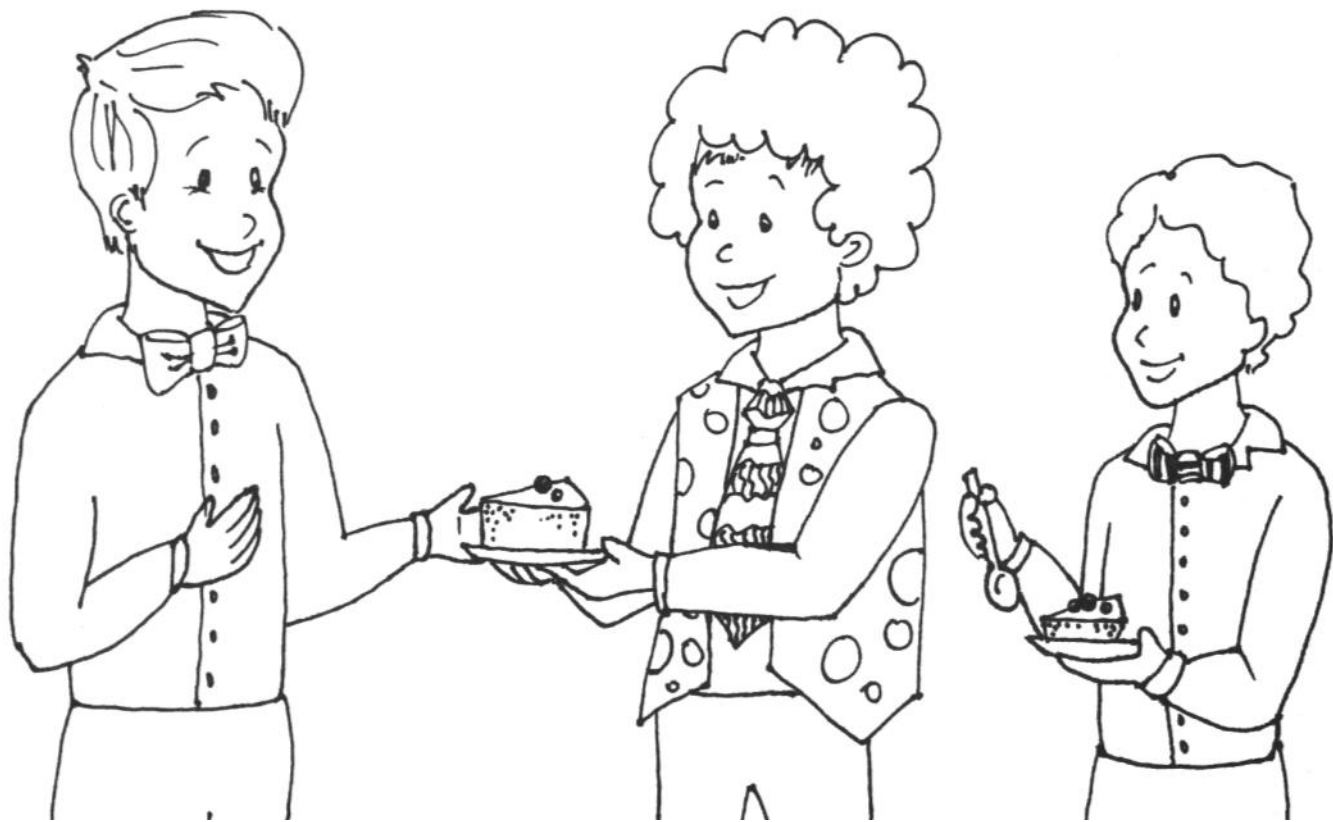
So they traded.



The happy boys joined in the games feeling glad to have each other's friendship.

There was a piñata game. There were relay races using funny dress-up clothing. There was even a hide-and-seek game played out in the garden.

Then, while the children were enjoying the birthday snack, a fun skit and music show was put on for them. Lots of laughter was heard!



At the end of the party, Mother asked Ned what he liked most from his time there.

He remembered that his brother Tony had been so funny and made everyone laugh.

Ned also remembered that when it was snack time, Tony made sure that he, Ned, and his brother Teddy, had their snack first.



Mother said,

“It’s probably because you made sure to put people before things—Tony’s happiness before what you wanted to wear. In return, he made you and others happy, and you were able to have a great time.”

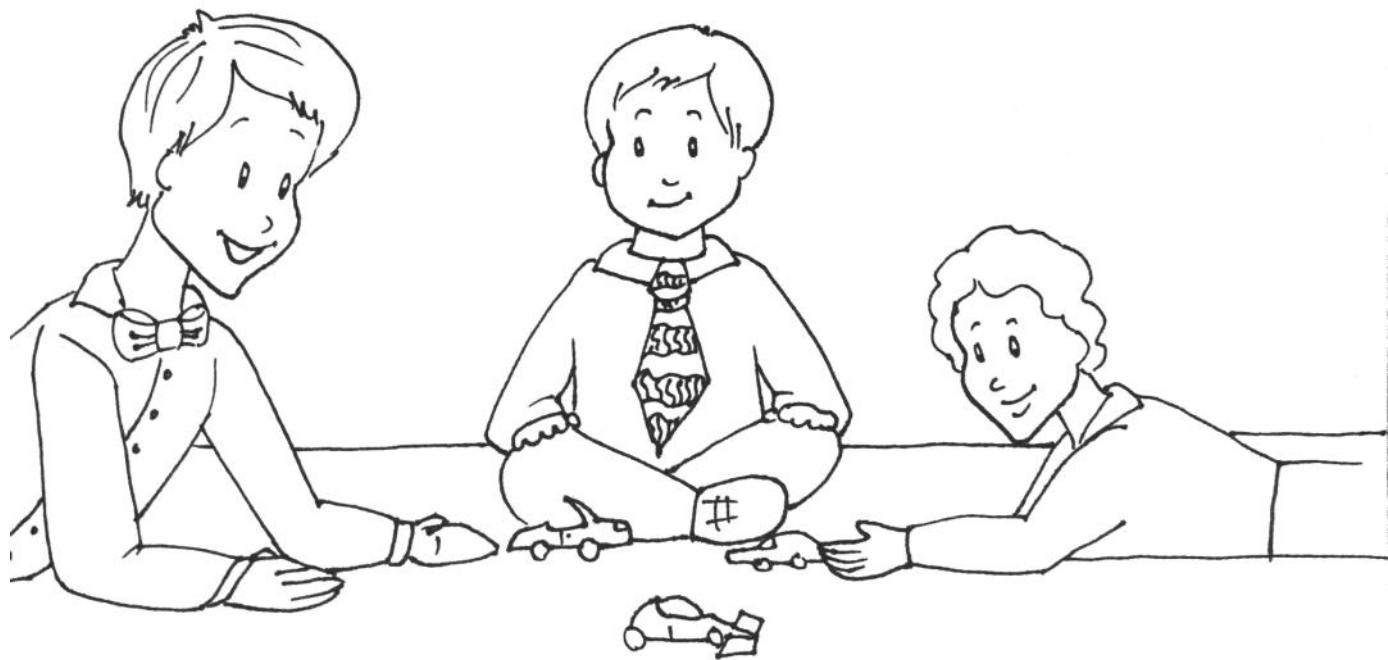
Ned nodded. He could see now the good result of his being willing to share his bowtie. He not only got it back later on, but also had an especially fun time at the party.



Mother continued,

“I think you both are going to get some pretty big rewards both now and in Heaven as well, for the loving way you work things out.

“There will be lots of parties there, and delicious snacks, and fun, amazing treats for those who put the needs and happiness of others first.”



Ned replied,

“At first it was kind of bothering me that Tony always wants the things that I have. But then I just thought of all the times when he did share things with me, so it made me want to keep sharing things with him.”

Mother gave Ned a big hug, and off he went to play with the new set of race cars that he and Tony won at one of the party games.

