

**The Project  
and  
The Puppy  
—Part 2—**

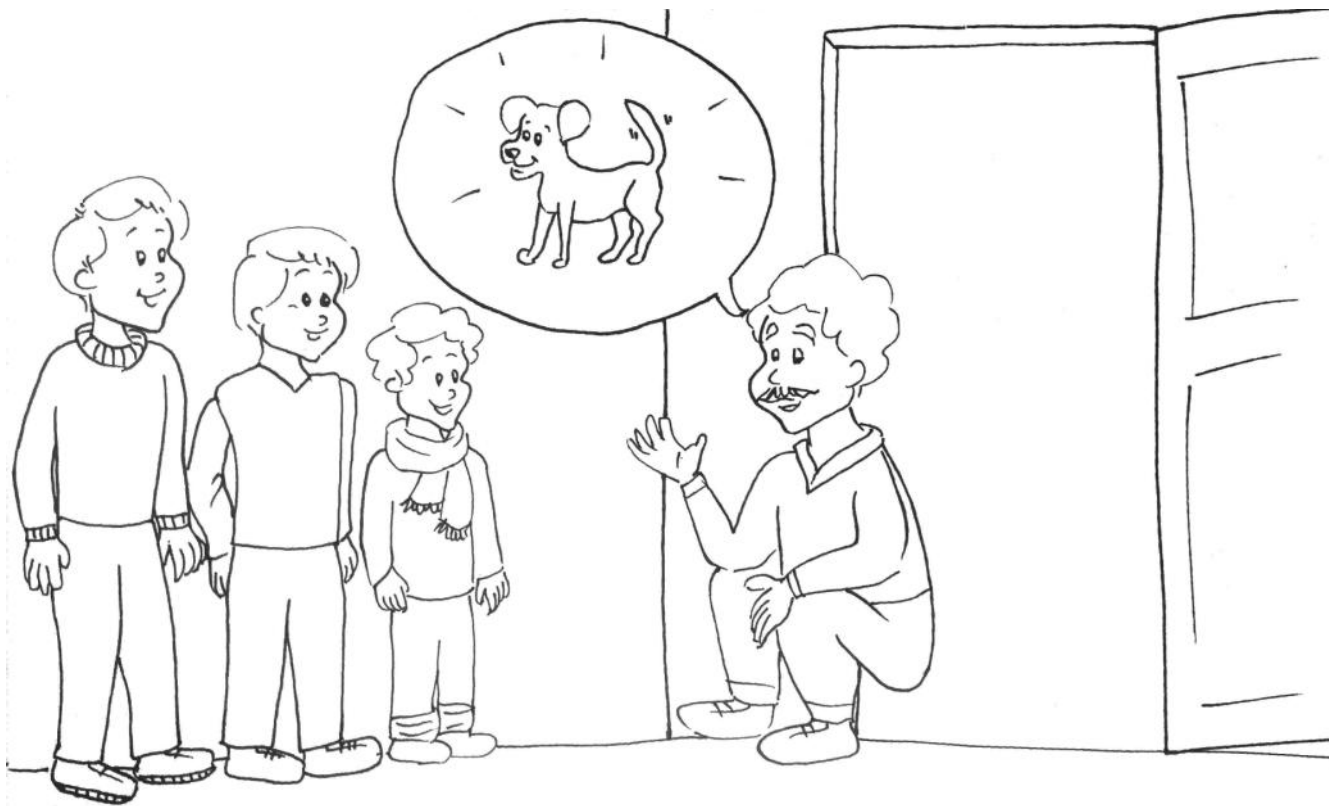
# **The Project and the Puppy** **—Part 2—**

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*Dedicated to my three wonderful boys!*

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Daddy, Mother, Ned, Tony, and Teddy went to visit the kind shop owner at his house—the one who had donated food for their meal-giving project.

He had invited them so that the boys could see his new little puppy again. When they walked in, the man said to the boys, “I want to play a game with you. See if you can find Black Pup. He is somewhere in the house.”

“Where can we find him?” the two boys wondered.

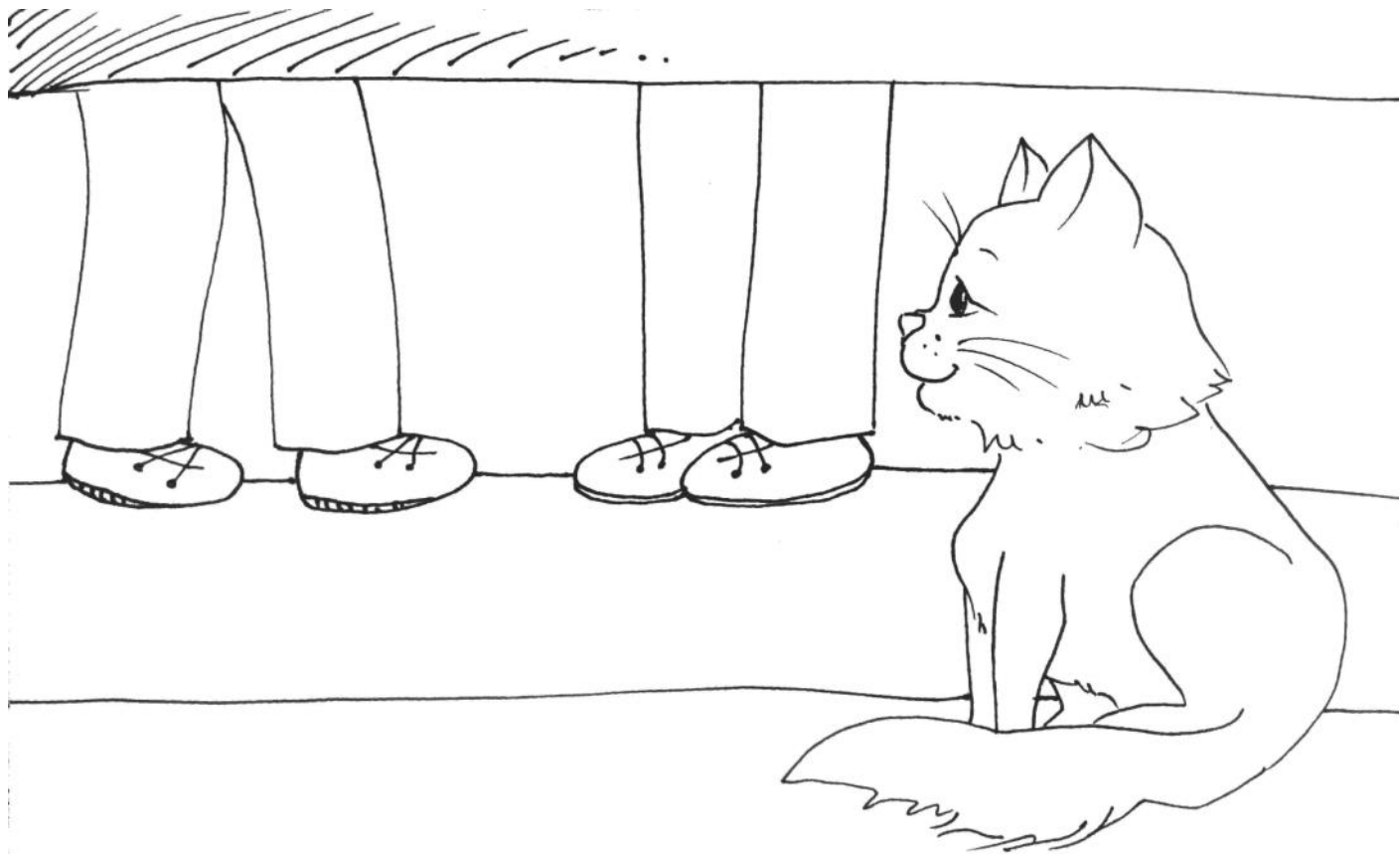
“I’ll give you a clue. He says, ‘Aarf, aarf, aarf, aarf’. So you can walk around the whole house and see if you can hear him barking.”



Tony and Ned thought this was a great idea! But before they began looking, they remembered to shake the man's hand and say hello.

“Hello! Thank you for having us visit your house so we can see the puppy dog,” Tony said, shaking the man's hand, and this was followed by Ned doing the same.

Then the looking and listening game began, while Daddy and Mother, and Teddy too, sat in the livingroom with this shop owner.



Ned, together with his younger brother Tony, started walking down the hallway. They walked very quietly so they could listen and hear where the puppy was.

They heard a “Meow!”

“Huh? What’s that?” There was a little kitty cat walking up beside them.

“Oh, that’s not a puppy dog!” And they kept walking.

While the boys were off exploring, Daddy, Mother and the shop owner decided to read a passage of the Bible together—a story that told about Christmas, the birthday of Jesus.

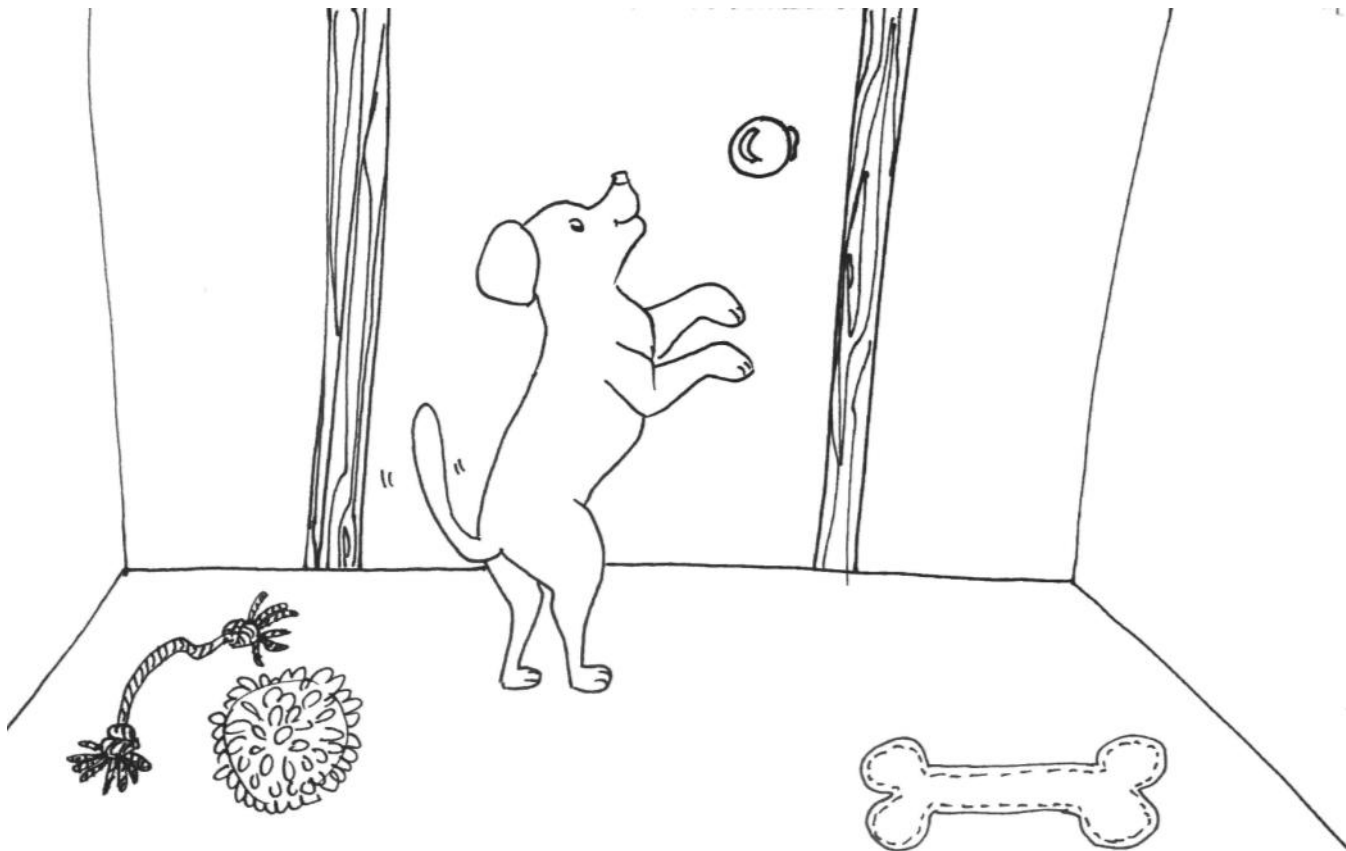




The shop owner gave Teddy some Christmas decorations to play with on the little table there, while the adults read from the Bible.

They read together the part where the wise kings travelled a long time to bring their gifts to the one who was King of kings! —Young Jesus.

It was a good story to read, as after all, the man had given a gift to others. Since he couldn't give to the Baby Jesus, at least he could give to families with children. That was a great gift for Jesus.



Ned and Tony were nearly at the end of the long hallway, passing several doors and rooms, when they suddenly heard a whimper and a scratching noise.

“Oh, the puppy is behind that door!” they exclaimed happily, and quickly went back to tell those sitting in the livingroom.

However, when they entered the livingroom they saw that a passage from the Bible was being read, so being the thoughtful boys that they were, they waited quietly so as not to disturb.



The shop owner, impressed by their polite manners, looked up and said, “So, what do you have to say?”

“We found him!” both boys exclaimed, all at once.

“Did you go into the room?” the man asked.

The boys shook their heads “no”. They thought perhaps it was best to not explore behind closed doors in someone else’s house, but went to ask the owner’s permission first.

“Go ahead, you can open that door. Black Pup will be very happy to see you!” the man said.

And so off the boys ran to do just that.



They stood in front of the door where some barking and whimpering was coming from, then turned the doorknob.

Very quickly a little dog came scampering out. He was trying to get outside to run and play.

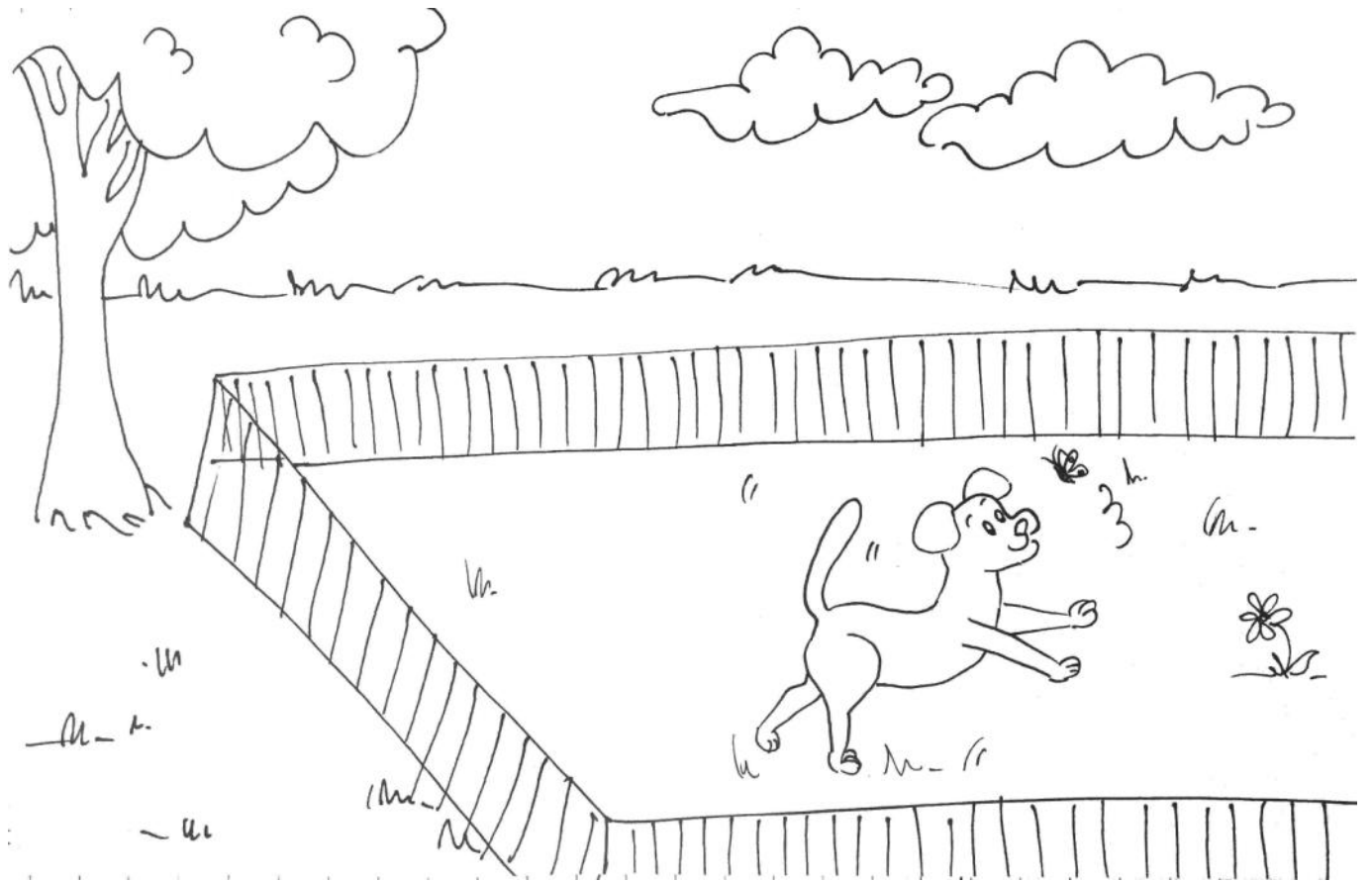
They went chasing him down the hallway, and he went running, running, running so fast to the livingroom.

The boys were laughing, saying, “Oh, pup, pup, pup!”

Teddy was laughing and getting excited too.

The shop owner said, “Aha, I see you found him indeed. You are having some fun. Would you like to play outside with the pup?”





There was a little corner in the yard that had a fence around it so the pup wouldn't run too far away. He could stay safe there.

Everyone went outside together, to watch the puppy and the boys play. The boys threw some little sticks for the pup, to see if he would get them. They were careful to make sure he was safe.

“Would you like to feed him?” the shop owner asked.

He showed them what to do. Tony scooped out some puppy food and put it in his bowl, and Ned filled up his water bowl by pouring into it from a jug of water.

After eating a bit of food, Black Pup was ready for some more fun and running around.



At last he was ready for a nice puppy dog nap time, and it was time for the family to leave anyway.

The shop owner said, “Okay, it’s time for Black Pup to get in his little bed.”

“Come on, pup. Come on, pup!” the man said, and carried him back into the little room, and placed him in his little bed box.

The family was shown where to wash their hands, and afterwards they thanked the man for the fun time that they had. They said, “Good-bye!”

But before they left, they had a special package to give to the shop owner. It was an envelope filled with several cards, notes, and photos.



These were notes of thankfulness from the families that enjoyed the food he had shared.

A few little tears came to the shop owner's eyes. His heart was encouraged. It really did feel good to make others happy in some way, even if it cost a bit to share.

“Thank you,” he said, “Thank you for letting me be a part of the good your family is doing this Christmas.”

He then said to the boys, “If you would like to visit again sometime, I'm sure Black Pup would like you to come again. It was fun seeing you all having a good time playing. I like hearing laughter in my usually quiet house.”

(Continued in “The Project and The Puppy”—Part 3)



