

A Gift of Faith Book 11

Part 1 (of 3)



**Object
Observation**

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A Gift of Faith Book

11

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Object Observation

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Photo by Jon Berg

1 - Telephone

You can talk to Jesus anytime and anywhere! You can say the words out loud, or in your heart and mind, and He will hear you, and answer you too!

Saying a prayer is just as easy as talking on the telephone. All you need to do is think about Jesus, tell Him that you love Him and that you are glad He is your friend and helper, and then tell Him what you want to say.

Jesus will hear all that you say, and He even knows what you are thinking and feeling too. If you need help, just ask Him! Give Jesus a call through prayer.



Photo by Naomi

2-Cuddly Animal Toy

Isn't it nice to feel a soft and fluffy toy animal? It feels so comfortable in your arms. If it was made of rough and pokey material, you wouldn't want to keep it very close to you.

When you are like a soft and gentle teddy bear and act kindly, speak softly to others, and try to make things pleasant for them, then people want to be around you more.

If you act rudely, or speak unkindly, or treat people roughly, others won't enjoy talking and playing with you. Gentle and kind people are the ones that others want to be friends with.



Photo by Chariane Quille

3-Soap and Scrub Brush

To clean your hands, you can use soap and water and sometimes a little scrub brush. What can you do if your heart or mind is dirty with ugly or unkind thoughts and feelings that don't make Jesus happy?

If you are upset at someone, or if you have done something wrong and haven't told Jesus or others that you are sorry, or if you have let ugly and unloving thoughts into your mind and heart, then you need to get cleaned up. Reading God's words and praying are like using soap and water, they can help your heart and mind to get clean again. Asking Jesus and others to forgive you for your wrong doings, and praying with others to ask Jesus to help you to change, can be like a good scrub up. You'll feel all nice and fresh and clean again.



Photo by Chariane Quille

4-Table Wiping Cloth

To wipe a table clean we need a cloth, but the cloth gets a bit dirty. If the cloth stayed fancy and shiny and never wiped a mess, your table wouldn't be very clean.

It's good if each of us is willing to help with the humble jobs also. When someone looks at a nice clean table, do they say "Wow, what a great cloth that wiped it!", or is the wiping cloth even noticed at all? The cloth helps the table to shine, just like each of us can be a help to others.

We can do the humble things, even if no one notices us or we get messy while working hard. Jesus will bless and give good things to those that are humble helpers to others.



Photo by Jon Berg

5-Tidy and Clean Clothes

Do you like to get dressed up in special clothes for certain occasions? Maybe you are having a celebration and you wear something fancy, or perhaps for beach play you put on some colourful summer clothes.

When people notice a nice outfit that you put on to look well-dressed, it can make you feel good. Did you know that people notice what you do even more than the way you look?

When your words and actions show a nice example to others of kindness and consideration, cheerfulness and being helpful, it makes people feel like you are the fanciest one around—wearing the “clothes” of a good example. What you do and say is noticed by anyone who is around you, and will help others want to be that way too.



Photo by Chariane Quille

6-Broom and Dust Pan

Little things that you do or the things that you choose not to do, make a difference. It may not seem to matter to you right now if you do a job well, but later on you'll be so glad you did. People notice if you just try to do things fast, or if you put thought and care into doing things thoroughly and well. Taking care of things that seem small and of no immediate consequence can save you a lot of time and trouble later on. A nail left on the road can make your car have a flat tyre that may delay a trip and take time to get fixed. Putting away something that is special to you, rather than leaving it lying around, can keep it from getting lost or accidentally ruined. Washing your hands well when they are dirty can keep you from getting sick. Sweeping up every bit of something that broke can prevent you from stepping on it and hurting your foot. Being diligent and careful is important, and will have good results.



Photo by Naomi

7-Batteries and Flashlight/Torch

Flashlights are really useful when you go camping and when it's dark. They can light dark corners or show you where it's safe to walk. But without batteries, the flashlight is no good. Or if the batteries get used up, the light from the flashlight gets weaker and weaker until it's gone. The Holy Spirit is like the batteries in our flashlight. The Holy Spirit is our teacher and wants to make things easier for us, and to help us.

Just like we have to put the batteries in if we want a flashlight to work, we can pray and ask for the help of the Holy Spirit to help us do our work. One way to keep our spiritual batteries, or energy, charged and full of power is by taking time with Jesus and His Word, and also by taking time to thank Him for our many blessings. The Lord needs us to shine brightly for Him. He wants to charge us up with power so we can do that.



Photo by Naomi

8-Shoes

Going hiking with your dad or mum is lots of fun, isn't it? Sometimes though, the way gets steep or slippery, and it's hard to know where to put your foot so that you don't slip or fall. Maybe your dad or mum told you, "Step here where I've stepped. That's a safe place to put your foot." And when you did that, you didn't slip at all.

All through life, Jesus is walking with us. Sometimes when things get tough, it's like He's taking us on a big hike. But all the time He's saying, "Step here where I've just stepped. That's a good place to put your foot." All we have to do is follow in His footsteps, and we'll be safe. If we're not sure what to do, we can always ask Him. Or even stop and think: "*What would Jesus do?*" That way, you'll always be sure that you're on the right path and going God's way.



Photo by Naomi

9-Bike Helmet

Riding a bike is so much fun! And when you're ready for it, your parents will take the training wheels off so you can ride a big-kid bike. When the training wheels go off, you have to learn how to balance on your bike. That's not always easy.

There may be times when you fall and get a bump or a scrape. That's why Mum and Dad ask you to wear a bike helmet, so when you fall you don't hurt yourself too much. It's fun to ride bikes, especially when you have your helmet on.

No matter how old you are, it's always important to wear a bike helmet. Even professional bicycle racers wear them. They wouldn't think of entering a race without their helmet.



Photo by Jon Berg

In the same way, Jesus gives us His helmet of salvation when we receive Him in our hearts. Jesus loves us so much! He wants to keep us safe and protected, and able to make it safely through the race of life, all the way to Heaven.

And the good thing about Jesus' helmet of Salvation that He gives us, is that we can't ever lose it. Once we've prayed and received His gift of salvation we'll be kept by Him, and the falls and bonks of life won't harm us.

We'll just keep getting up and riding again, until we hear Him say "You made it!", and then we'll be home in Heaven at last.



Photo by Naomi

10-Lego

It's so fun building things with Lego. You can make anything you want—from space ships and satellites, to houses and castles, and even helicopters that take off and land! God had a lot of fun making His creation too. Only He didn't need to work hard to get the pieces to stick together, or hunt around for one piece that was missing. All God had to do was say the word, and it was so! He said, "Let there be light!" and there was light! All through the creation, God said it and it was so. It always happened just as He said! That just shows you how powerful God's Word is, and why it's so good to read His words in the Bible. We can also get to know what God's like from His creation, just like we can tell a little about you by what kind of things you make with your Lego. Or just like a painter who paints a masterpiece. People can get to know what the painters are like by the colours they use, or the kind of pictures they paint.



Photo by Jon Berg

11 - Clocks

Clocks are really useful to help us keep track of time. We only have a certain amount of time each day and in our lifetime, too. Solomon was a very wise king who once prayed, "Lord, teach us to number our days so that we may apply our hearts to wisdom." He was asking God to help him not to waste time but rather use his time each day, in the best way possible.

It's easy to get tripped off when you're supposed to be helping Mum or Dad, or when a teacher or trainer is explaining something. You have to teach your mind to behave, or it will be like a naughty little kid that doesn't obey and just wanders off. You have to teach your mind to behave itself, and remember what it's supposed to do.



Photo by Jon Berg

Clocks help us a lot with that, because they are always steadily ticking out the time. They let us know how long it takes us to clean up our room, or to get dressed.

Time is very precious and we don't want to waste it. We only have a certain amount of time each day, and we can't get back the time we spent. Our lives are each made up of many little minutes and seconds.

So let's try to not waste time but rather to use it wisely doing things that we will be glad we did, and that will make Jesus pleased that He gave us the gift of time to use.



Photo by Naomi

12-Gloves

Have you ever tried on some gloves that were too big? Or some other ones that were too small? They didn't work very well, did they? The big ones made it hard for your fingers to pick anything up, and the little gloves were uncomfortable and you couldn't move your fingers well, since they were too tight. Gloves that fit well are a benefit to you, whether you're working in the garden or you just need some gloves to keep warm.

Our words can be like gloves. If they're loud, or rude, or pushy, they are like the gloves that are too big. They don't fit, and make you feel clumsy. Words that are unloving or unkind can make people feel uncomfortable, like gloves that are too tight.



Photo by Curtis Peter van Gorder

The Bible says that “words fitly spoken” are really precious and valuable. They are as valuable as golden apples, or silver pictures.

Just like you take time to find the right sized gloves, let’s take time to choose our words carefully and make sure they are the right fit.

Let’s use words that are helpful to others and make them feel warm inside, and protected and cared for—like good gloves do.



Photo by Chariane Quille

13 - Backpack

Backpacks are a really neat invention. They are perfect for going camping or hiking. Backpacks are made of strong material and can carry a big load. Whenever somebody goes camping or hiking, they always make sure they take a good strong backpack along. If people can count on you to help bear the burdens of others, then you'll be highly sought after and in demand—just like a good quality backpack. It's not always easy to see the needs of others and look for ways you can be a help, but that's why we're on Earth: to help bear each other's burdens and be a blessing to others. The time may come when you will need help, and then you'll be so grateful that someone is there to help you. You'll appreciate their help so much—just like a strong, sturdy backpack that can carry a big load. That's how we want people to think of us, and that's what makes Jesus happy too.



14-Puzzle Pieces

What's a puzzle without all of its pieces? Have you ever put a puzzle together only to find one piece missing? The place where that missing piece should have been stood out like a glaring hole, didn't it? Just one little piece, but without it the puzzle is not complete.

Sometimes we may feel like we are just one little piece of a puzzle, and no one's going to notice whether we are there or not. But each person is important, just like each piece of a puzzle.

You have a unique sparkle, a special something that no one else has because God made you special and unique, and He loves you.



Photo by Chariane Quille

God needs you to be a part of whatever is going on and to be there with your whole heart, because you count! Your smile and your sparkle are important!

Just like a puzzle that's missing a piece, when you aren't there or aren't smiling and being an enthusiastic help to those around you, then something's missing.

So do your best for Jesus. You count to Jesus and you're a part of God's big puzzle!



Photo by Curtis Peter van Gorder

15-Bouquet of Flowers

Everyone enjoys looking at a bouquet of flowers because it's so special. It doesn't have to be fancy flowers from a shop. Maybe you picked a bouquet from the garden one time for your mummy and she was so pleased and happy that you did that. She probably put it in a vase with water, so everyone could see and admire it.

When we're positive, which is like being all sunny and happy inside, then we are like that bouquet of flowers. Everyone enjoys being around us and is happy to see us. But when we're acting grumpy and thinking only about ourselves, then people are quick to find somewhere else to go.

So let's try to be like God's sunshine flowers and shine with His love and happiness. Sunshine flowers make everyone happy and they're welcome everywhere!



Photo by Naomi

16-Different Socks

Have you ever pulled out some socks from your drawer and found out they didn't match? -Just when you were in a hurry to get out the door! You had to rummage through your drawer and hopefully you found the other sock that matched. But it took a lot of time and slowed you down. That's the way it is when two people have a hard time getting along and working together. It's just like mismatched socks. It just doesn't work! A lot of time gets lost in arguing and saying unkind words. Nothing will go right until you can start agreeing and working things out together. It's just like trying to wear two mismatched socks. Learning to work as a team is like that too. You have to start off on the right foot, agreeing together and working together. Otherwise, nothing will go right and everything could go wrong. It's so much easier when people can agree and work together nicely like a team. -Just like a pair of matching socks!



Photo by Naomi

17-Pen and Notebook

Pen and paper are really good for drawing and writing. Maybe you're just learning how to write, but you probably already know how to draw pretty well. You see Mummy and Daddy or other adults using notebooks and pens all the time. Writing things down is important because it helps us to remember them later on. Maybe you like to draw pictures of your vacation, or draw about special times like Christmas, or your birthday. When you look back at your pictures some time later they remind you of something fun that happened, or of something you learned or did. Well, the Lord likes to remember things too. He has lots of big books that He writes things down in. One of them is called the Book of Remembrance. He remembers everything we do, all the good and the bad. He also keeps track of our words and how we use them. The nice thing about Jesus is that He sees all that we do, and He loves us anyway. Isn't that sweet?

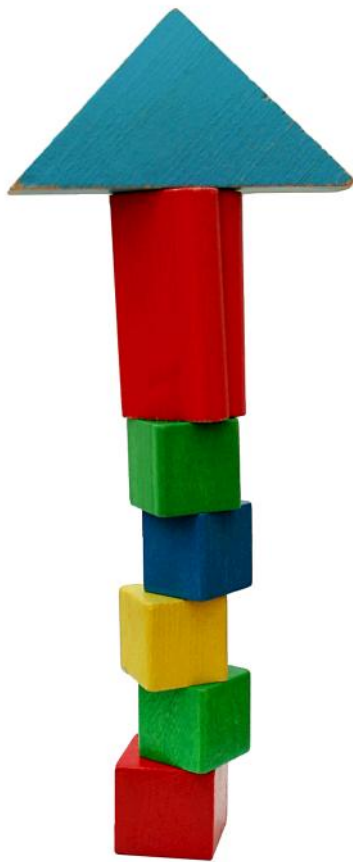


Photo by Naomi

18-Toy Blocks

Do you like playing with wooden blocks? It sure is fun stacking them and building things with them. One time, Jesus told a story about a wise man and a foolish man.

The foolish man built his house on sand, and the rains came and washed his house away. But the wise man built his house on a rock, and the rains and the winds couldn't knock it down. Jesus said if you build your house on His words, you will be like the wise man who built his house on a rock.

Wouldn't it be amazing to have a tower of blocks that was impossible to knock down? Jesus can make your life that strong and steady, if you love His words and try to do what He says. Jesus is the Master Builder and He is pretty smart. So the best thing we can do is follow His words and obey them.

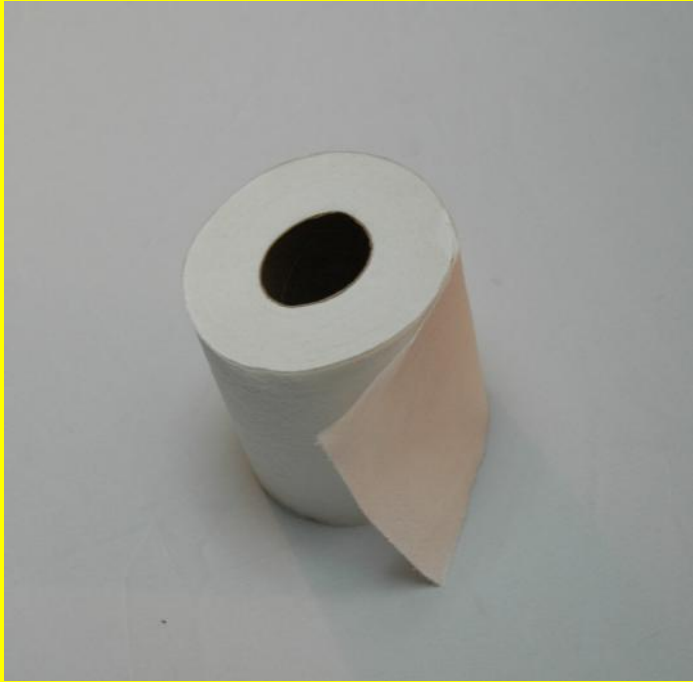


Photo by Jon Berg

19-Tissues

Tissues are really helpful when you've been crying. They're perfect for wiping away tears that you've cried, as well as wiping your runny nose. If you fall and scrape your knee it's so nice when Mummy holds you, cleans up the cut, and wipes away your tears with a nice soft tissue.

All throughout life there are times when we fall down and hurt ourselves. Big people fall too! But as we get older, the hurts and bonks are more complicated than falling down and scraping a knee. Sometimes the hurts happen more on the inside, in our hearts, and other times our bodies get hurt or sick. But whatever kind of hurt we get, whether as a little kid or as a big grownup, Jesus is always there to comfort us.



Photos by Chariane Quille

Jesus' loving arms will hold us and He will wipe away all the hurts and pain. The Bible says that in Heaven, God is going to wipe away all our tears.

Do you think that He must have a very big box of tissues up there to do that? -Maybe so. Or maybe He has dancing angels and gentle fairy beings with soft wings that will wipe away the tears.

God's got all the comforting love and healing balm we need to help us forget every pain and hurt that we've ever had.

