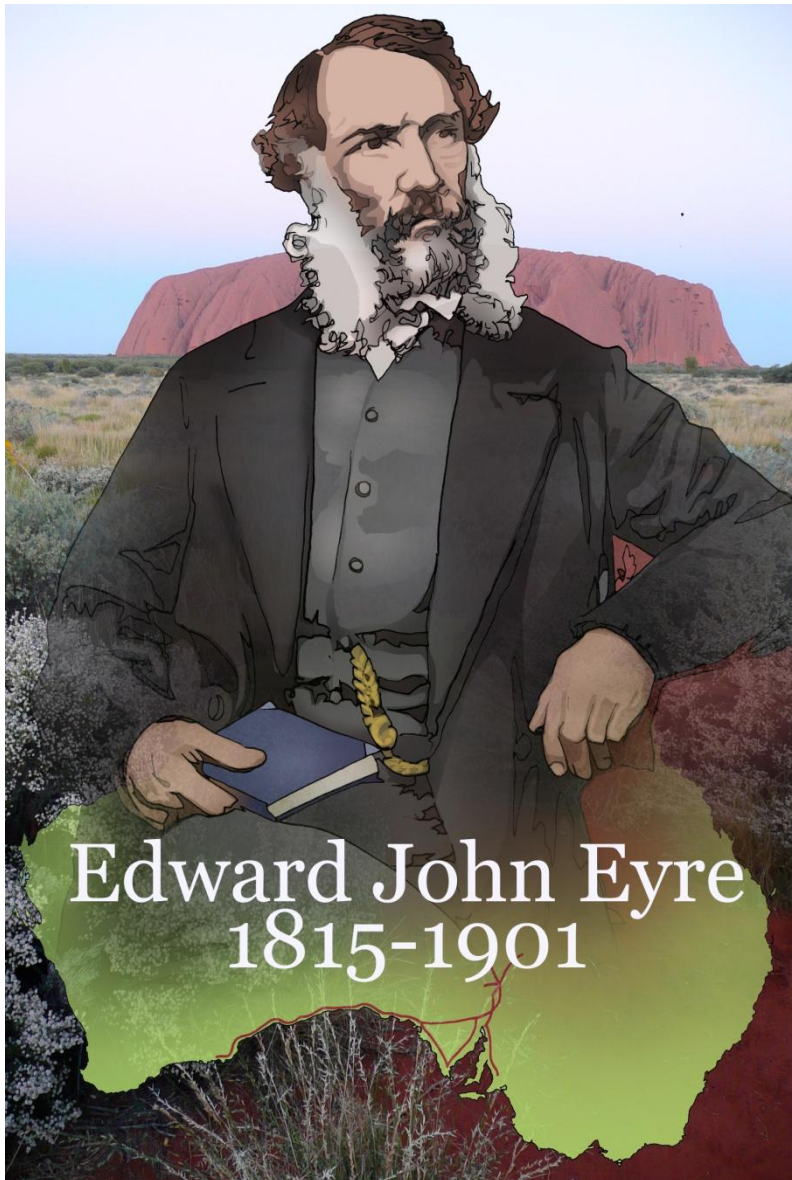


# **SWIFT LEARNING BOOK—1**

**(Part III)**

## **Character Studies**

**SWIFT Topic: Faith & Character (Character Building)**



Edward John Eyre  
1815-1901

Edward Eyre explored and travelled through the interior of central and northern Australia. He wanted to find good places for people to live. However, the desert conditions were harsh to travel through.

Many times they lacked sufficient water for themselves and their animals, but they persevered. Edward and his team depended on God's help and prayed often, and then God would help them find some water or provided what they needed.

When good things worked out he knew it was God; when things were difficult, he was patient and knew it was just part of the challenging journey he had chosen to take.

They met Indigenous people in their journeys, and Edward noticed the good in them, and wrote telling others about it. He wanted the new settlers to Australia to live peaceably with the Indigenous people, to understand them and treat them well.

Edward reached his goals, with God's providence and assistance, and lived to write up what he learned and experienced, to be a help to others.

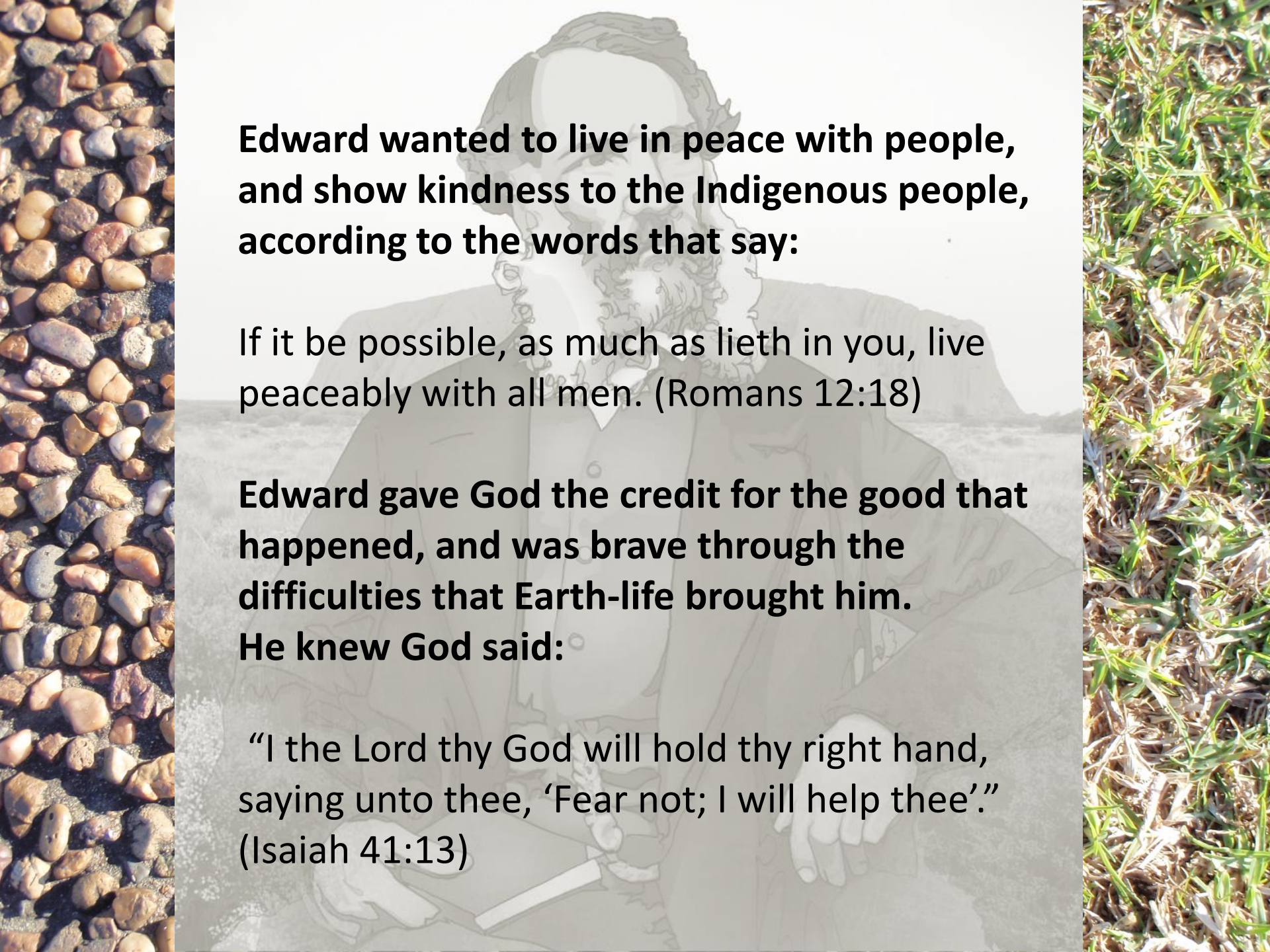


**Edward could keep going, and not quit,  
because he believed:**

Faithful is He that calleth you, who also will do it. (1 Thessalonians 5:24)

**When Edward lacked water, he had faith God  
would supply; and God did. He remembered:**

When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the Lord will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them. (Isaiah 41:16)



**Edward wanted to live in peace with people, and show kindness to the Indigenous people, according to the words that say:**

If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. (Romans 12:18)

**Edward gave God the credit for the good that happened, and was brave through the difficulties that Earth-life brought him.**

**He knew God said:**

“I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, ‘Fear not; I will help thee’.”  
(Isaiah 41:13)



# A-Z Theme Thoughts:

**A is for Animals!**

# Bible Verses: God cares for the animals!

## **Psalm 36:6b-7**

O Lord, thou preservest man and beast. How excellent is thy lovingkindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings.

## **Psalm 50:7b,10**

I am God, even thy God. For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills.

## **Psalm 50:11,12b**

I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the field are mine. ... For the world is mine, and the fulness thereof.

# A Bible story on animals!

See Genesis 1

## Animals Are Made

On the fifth day of “Creation week” when God created the world, the living environment was ready for Him to begin placing creatures in it. Everything they needed to enjoy and survive was there—water, land, air, trees, food, plants, light, and more.

On this day He started with the fish and sea creatures, then created birds of all types. These were the first animals created.

God told these first birds and fish and all the creatures that lived in water to “multiply”—that means to make more! God wanted more and more of them to fill the sea, the air and the trees.

He liked to see the happy creatures having fun in His new world. He enjoyed hearing the songs of the birds, and the sounds of many sea creatures too—sounds you seldom know about or rarely hear.



He liked seeing the fish exploring the pathways of the seas and rivers, discovering all that they do down there. It was marvellous to Him. God liked them all, and was ready to do the same with the land—fill it with life!



On the sixth day God added lots more! He created many types of animals on the Earth: animals that would walk, crawl, hop, leap, climb, gallop, hang, jump, glide, wiggle, creep, stand, trot, fly, dig, run, and so forth.

What a lively world it was becoming! Some animals were in forests, others on the mountains, some in trees, some under the ground, others on the wide-open plains, some on plants, others in jungles. And so the world was filled. God saw it and thought, “This is good!” He liked each one. They each added something unique and special to the world. Each one was different. Each one was special.

God told them what to eat: grass, plants, and herbs. Those were to be the food for all the animals to eat. What a peaceful world it was, with curious and gentle creatures living on it.



# A Lesson from an animal!



**Can you notice the two types of things in this picture that have a similar structure or shape?**



**Did you guess that the tree branches and the antlers have a similar shape or structure? You're right! They both point up and have "smiles" or "V" for Victory!**

**They both look like they are also similar to a person's arms lifted up in praise to the Lord. All creation knows God has made it, and declares it in some way.**

**Let's praise God all day too, no matter what happens, knowing that He cares. Let's notice the things He does for us today.**

**Just as the antlers also serve as a tool or instrument of protection, so does the act of praising God and thinking of the good. It will protect us from the harmful effects of negative thoughts and words that might get us feeling down, or stop us from doing our best.**

**Be like a tree—or a set of antlers—and keep pointing up to Heaven, and praising God for all He does daily for you, and for us all!**

# Facts about Animals!

Tigers can have over 100 stripes; and each tiger has its own unique pattern. No two tigers ever have the same stripes.

\*\*\*

Beaver teeth never stop growing, so they do not become too worn despite years of chewing hardwoods. Their four front teeth (incisors) are self-sharpening due to hard orange enamel on the front of the tooth and a softer dentin on the back. Therefore as beavers chew wood the softer backside of the tooth wears faster, creating a chisel-like cutting surface.

<http://www.beaversolutions.com/beaver-facts-biology-behavior/>

\*\*\*

Ostriches can run faster than horses--up to about 70 Kilometers per hour!

\*\*\*

Hummingbirds beat their wings 60 to 80 times per second.  
Hummingbirds are the only birds that can fly backwards.

Many species of owls have special feathers for flying silently. When air rushes over an ordinary bird's wing, it typically creates a swooshing or flapping noise. However, the owl has specially designed feathers that make his wings beat nearly silently while in flight, and descending.

The edge of the owl's wing has feathers covered in small structures that break up the flowing air. The air then rolls along the owl's wing toward the edge of its flexible feather fringe. As it flows off the trailing edge, this breaks up the air further and reduces noise. Any remaining noise is then absorbed by soft downy feathers on the owl's wings and legs.





Some male songbirds sing more than 2000 times each day.

\*\*\*

The brown thrasher has over 2,000 songs in its repertoire.

The nightingale, holds up to 300 different love songs in his repertoire.

The cowbird uses 40 different notes, some so high we can't hear them.

The chaffinch may sing his song half a million times in a season.

Indeed, British musician David Hindley slowed bird songs down and discovered parallels between the skylark's blizzard of notes and Beethoven's Fifth Symphony; between the woodlark's mind-numbingly complex song and J.S.Bach's 48 Preludes and Fugues. It changes its tune according to the rules of classical sonata form.

([www.pbs.org/lifeofbirds/songs/](http://www.pbs.org/lifeofbirds/songs/))

# A True Animal Story!

The day we wanted to go to the Zoo the weather report said it was supposed to be cold, but the sun shone and it was a beautiful day. We prayed that we would get to see all the fun animals at the right times when we passed by their areas at the Zoo. We prayed they would be easy for us to see, as some of the animals had very large places to live. And then it happened!

As soon as we walked into the Zoo there was a snow leopard in his area and he was sleeping behind the glass, right near the walkway. Most people didn't get to see him when they came to the Zoo that day, as he later moved away, but we got to see him right away.

All the other animals were easy to spot also; the giraffes for example. They could have been anywhere in their large area. However, when we passed by them they were eating right next to the fence.



Their faces were so close to where we were standing that we could nearly touch them. It was very special to see them.

When we went to see the tigers, it was right at the time when they were being fed.

The koalas were asleep when we first saw them, but later we got to see them awake and eating their favourite snack—eucalyptus leaves. Koalas sleep most of the time, both during the day and at night, so it was very rare to get to see them when they were awake.



**WE ENJOYED IT SO MUCH! IT WAS A PERFECT DAY.**

# THE BOY WITH MUSIC IN HIS HEART



--An imaginary story with meaning.



# THE BOY WITH MUSIC IN HIS HEART

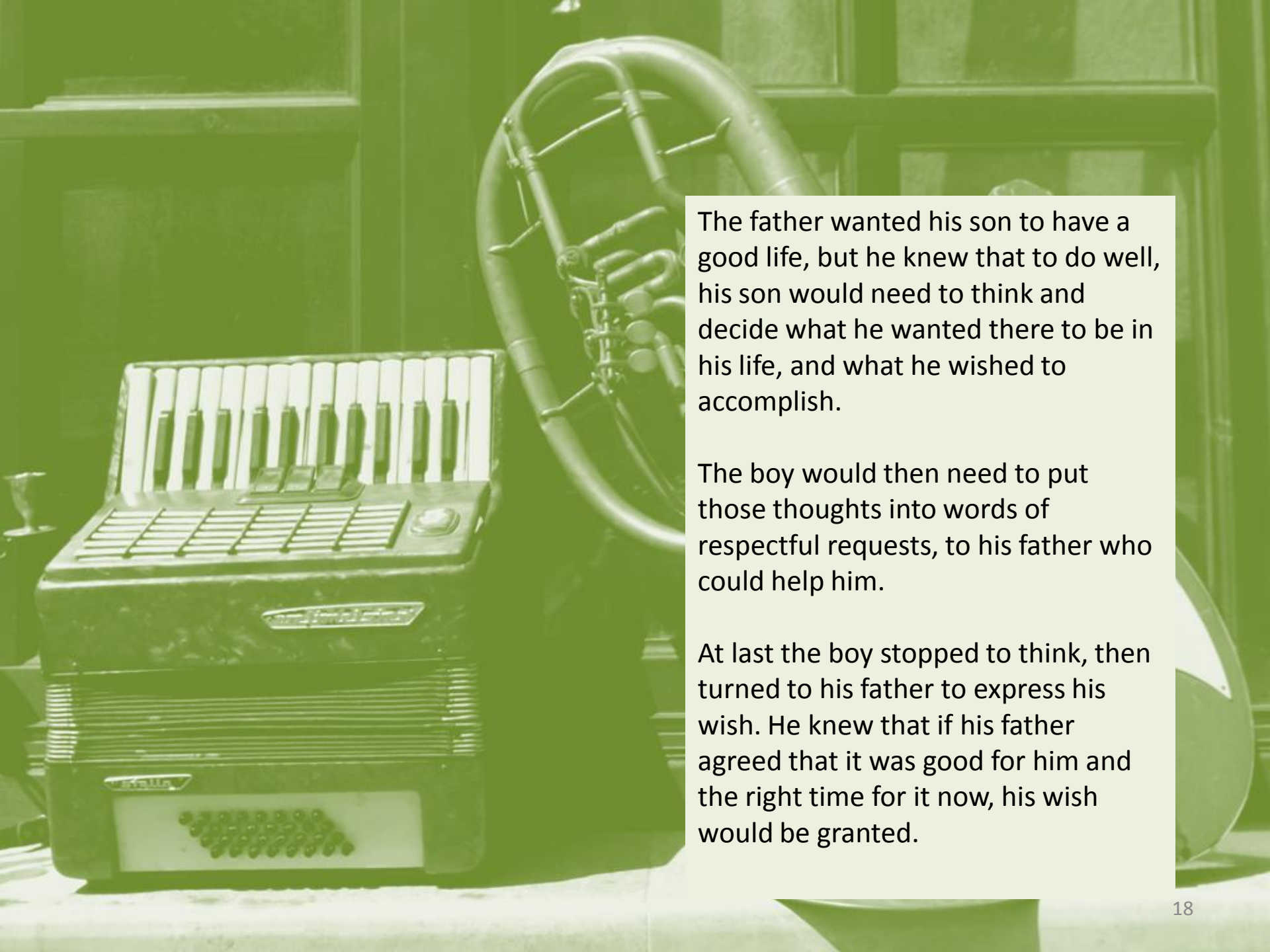


“I don’t know what you need, if you don’t express it to me,” said the man in a kind voice to his son.

The boy sat looking out the window, crying and wishing for something his father knew not.

Truthfully, however, the father did have an idea, of what it was. But to ask in order to receive was a skill the boy lacked.

He wished that everything he ever needed would always be given to him right away, without humbly and honestly communicating with this father about it.



The father wanted his son to have a good life, but he knew that to do well, his son would need to think and decide what he wanted there to be in his life, and what he wished to accomplish.

The boy would then need to put those thoughts into words of respectful requests, to his father who could help him.

At last the boy stopped to think, then turned to his father to express his wish. He knew that if his father agreed that it was good for him and the right time for it now, his wish would be granted.

The boy knew it was good, for it was even something his father wished for him too, he was sure.

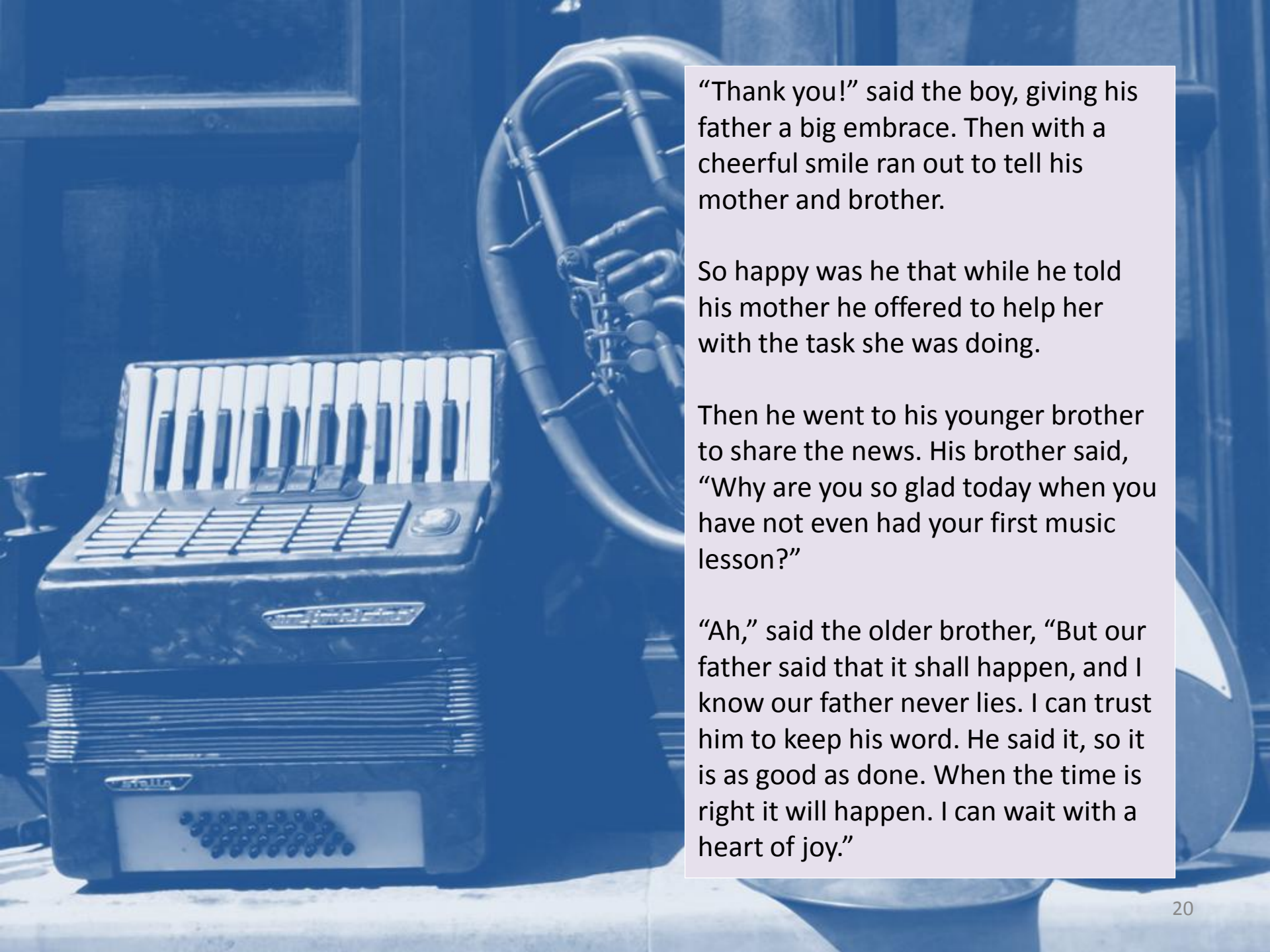
“Father,” the boy said, drying his eyes.

“If it pleases you, would you give me permission to take music lessons from our neighbour? For music is in my heart and I wish for it to be expressed. Yet as I am now, I have not the skill to do so.”

The father smiled.

“Yes, indeed, my son. I see you have made a good choice. This will be granted. You may start lessons as soon as it is possible. I will pay for them if you will use the skill for the good of your family and the community. See to it then, that it will be worth the cost.”





“Thank you!” said the boy, giving his father a big embrace. Then with a cheerful smile ran out to tell his mother and brother.

So happy was he that while he told his mother he offered to help her with the task she was doing.

Then he went to his younger brother to share the news. His brother said, “Why are you so glad today when you have not even had your first music lesson?”

“Ah,” said the older brother, “But our father said that it shall happen, and I know our father never lies. I can trust him to keep his word. He said it, so it is as good as done. When the time is right it will happen. I can wait with a heart of joy.”

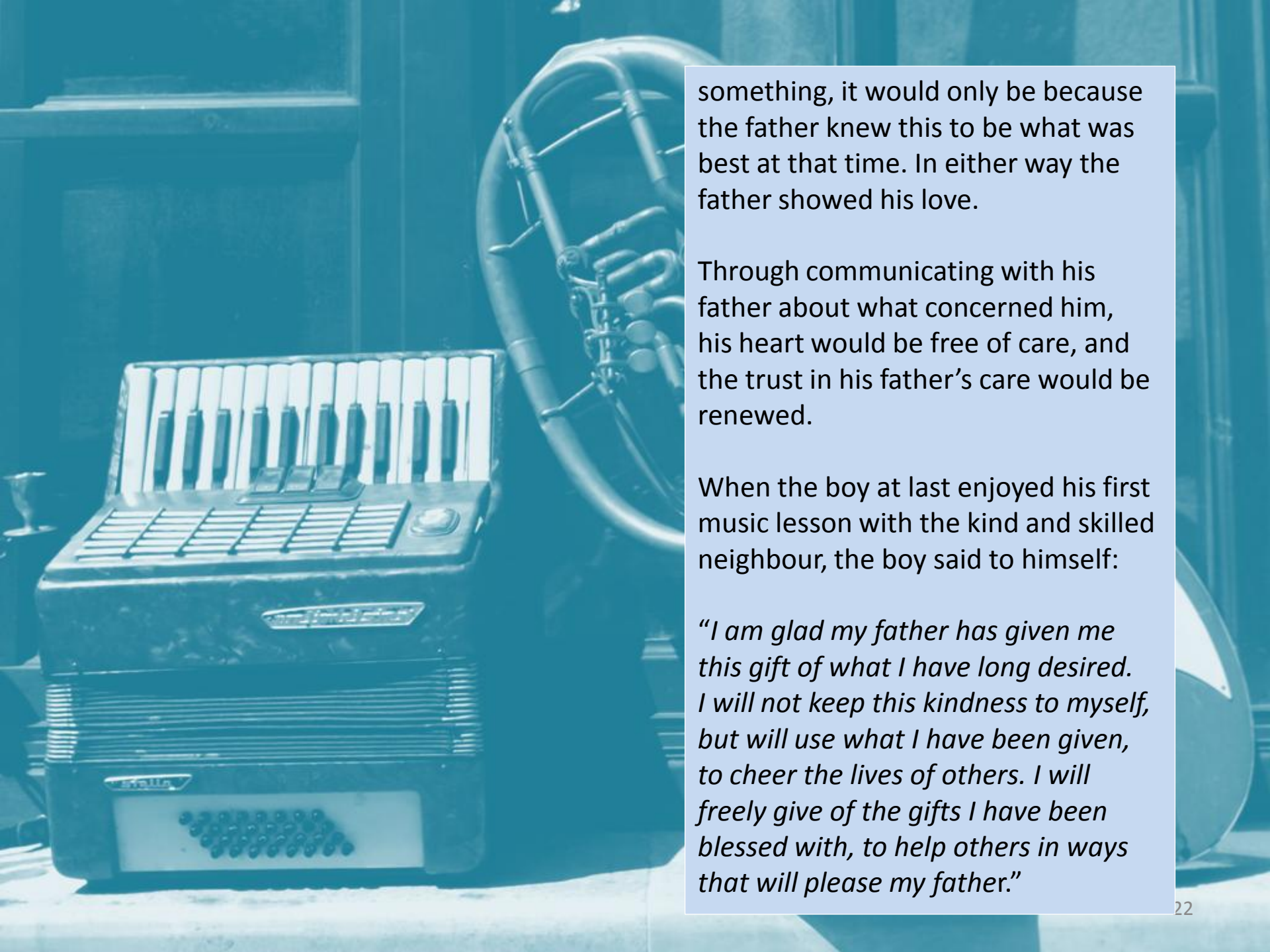
Then the boy paused, and a thoughtful look crossed his face.

He thought to himself, *“I wonder why I waited so long to ask. I could have saved myself the sorrow in heart if only I had asked my father sooner. For even if he had told me the time was not yet right, I know I would have felt at peace knowing that he understood my feelings and desire.”*

The boy resolved then that the next time something troubled him, he would speak with his father about it. He knew his father loved him and would care about his needs and desires, and would agree to give him what was good.

The boy could trust that if his father ever denied him a request, or he was made to wait awhile before receiving





something, it would only be because the father knew this to be what was best at that time. In either way the father showed his love.

Through communicating with his father about what concerned him, his heart would be free of care, and the trust in his father's care would be renewed.

When the boy at last enjoyed his first music lesson with the kind and skilled neighbour, the boy said to himself:

*"I am glad my father has given me this gift of what I have long desired. I will not keep this kindness to myself, but will use what I have been given, to cheer the lives of others. I will freely give of the gifts I have been blessed with, to help others in ways that will please my father."*

# TAKING SHAPE



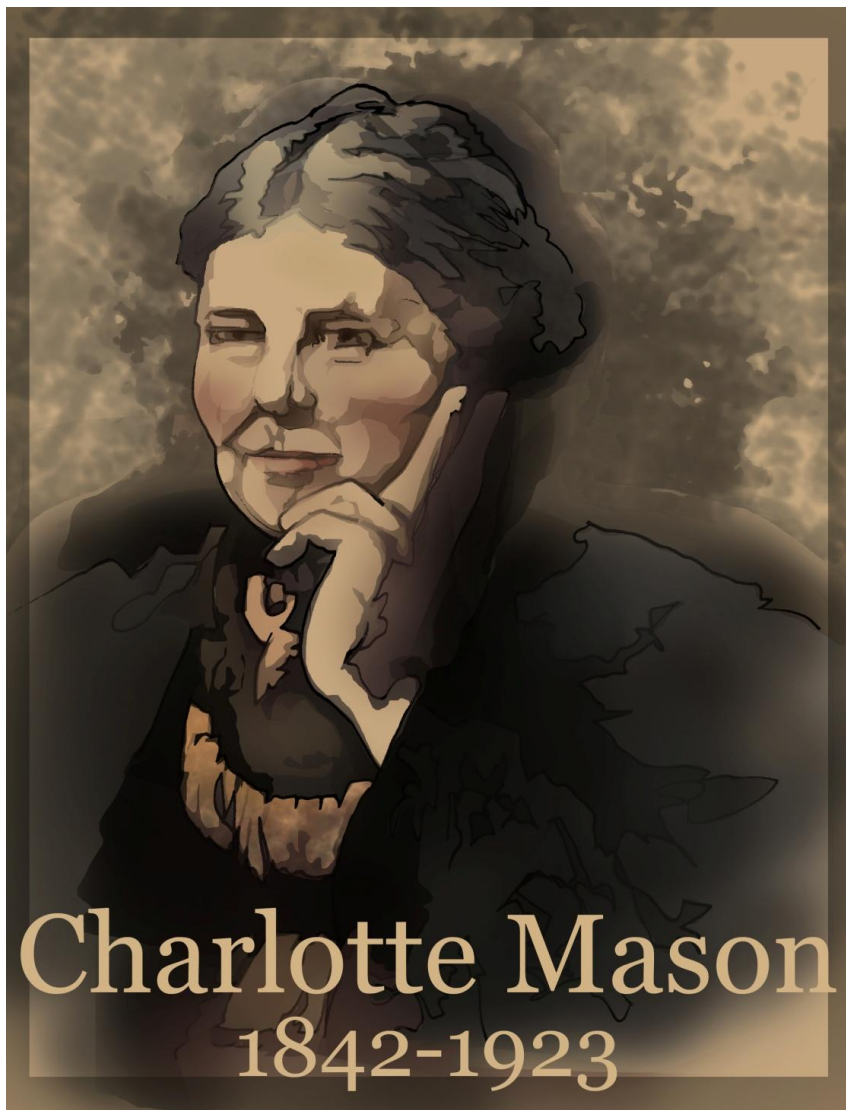
**A child has made a mini donut that has been shaped by hand from dates and coconut flour. Happily he shows his family, before enjoying this treat.**

To make a certain shape, of anything, you need to work with the materials. Some things take shape easily—like this snack; while others take more work and skill, like heating and blowing glass to make a vase.

The way we are, and how we appear to others, has also been shaped. We change and take shape by the experiences we've had, the things we have learned, and what we have been taught.

If we want to be in good shape to manage our lives, we need to work with the right materials.

We need to take in God's Word and thoughts to guide our thoughts and reactions. We need to think and say what is right, true and helpful. We need to work on good things. And only allow quality "materials" to be heard, seen, and read.



Charlotte Mason loved children and wished for them to enjoy their time learning at school. Or better yet, she knew mothers make some of the best teachers, and children can learn best when happily at home and out in nature.

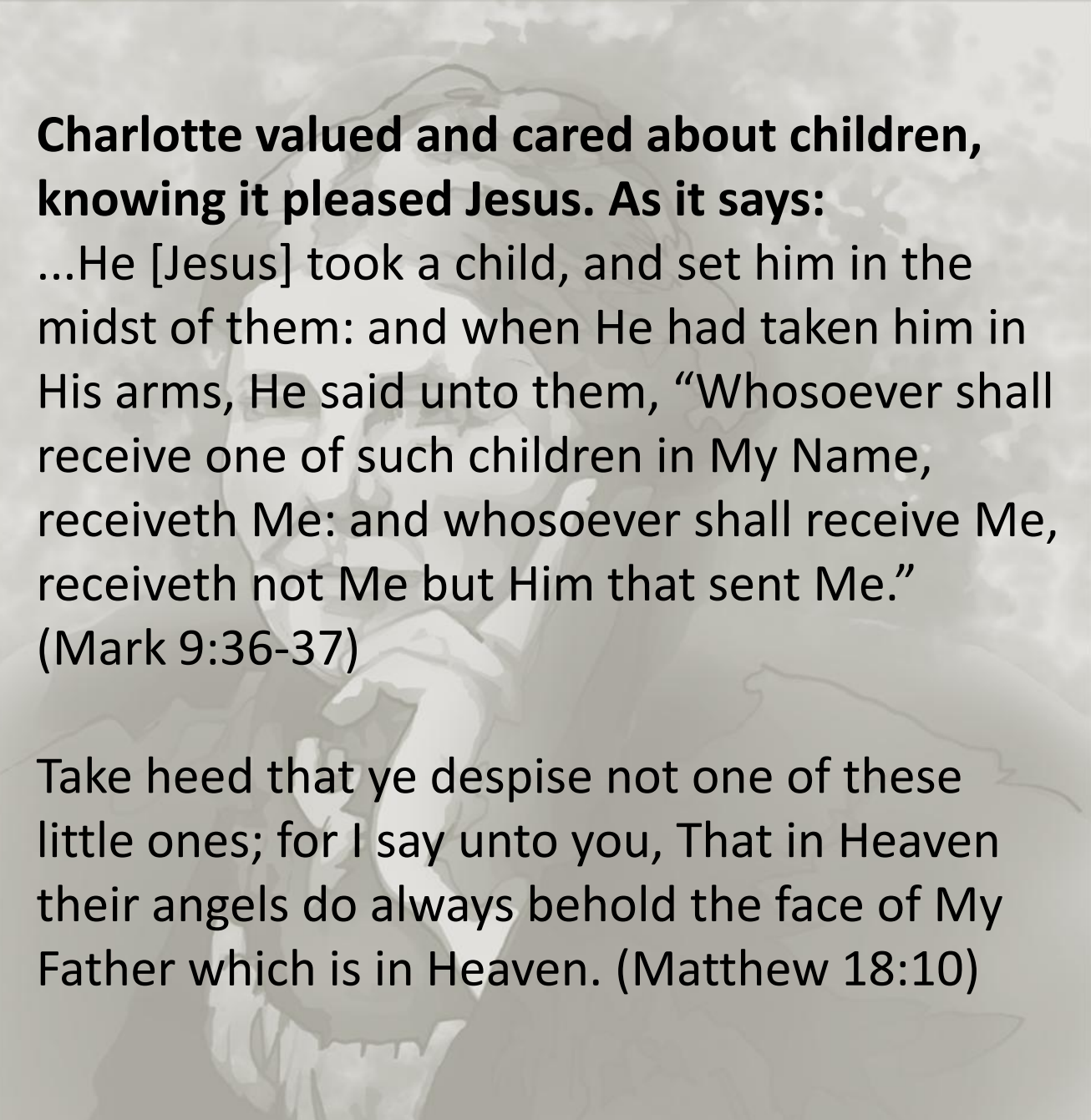
Charlotte saw the needs of children and parents and wanted to find the best solutions for providing a nice childhood, learning all the best things in all the best ways.

She explored and promoted new and enjoyable methods of teaching, and wanted children to learn about the Lord and His love for them. Charlotte did things in ways that others weren't doing them, in order to make things the best she could for children.

She wasn't afraid to stand out from everyone else, and be different in order to improve conditions for children. She wrote books telling of the plans and ideas and methods that God showed her.

Charlotte set up nice learning places for children. She also set up learning places to train new teachers and parents in how to give a rich, lovely and enjoyable education and good character training to children.

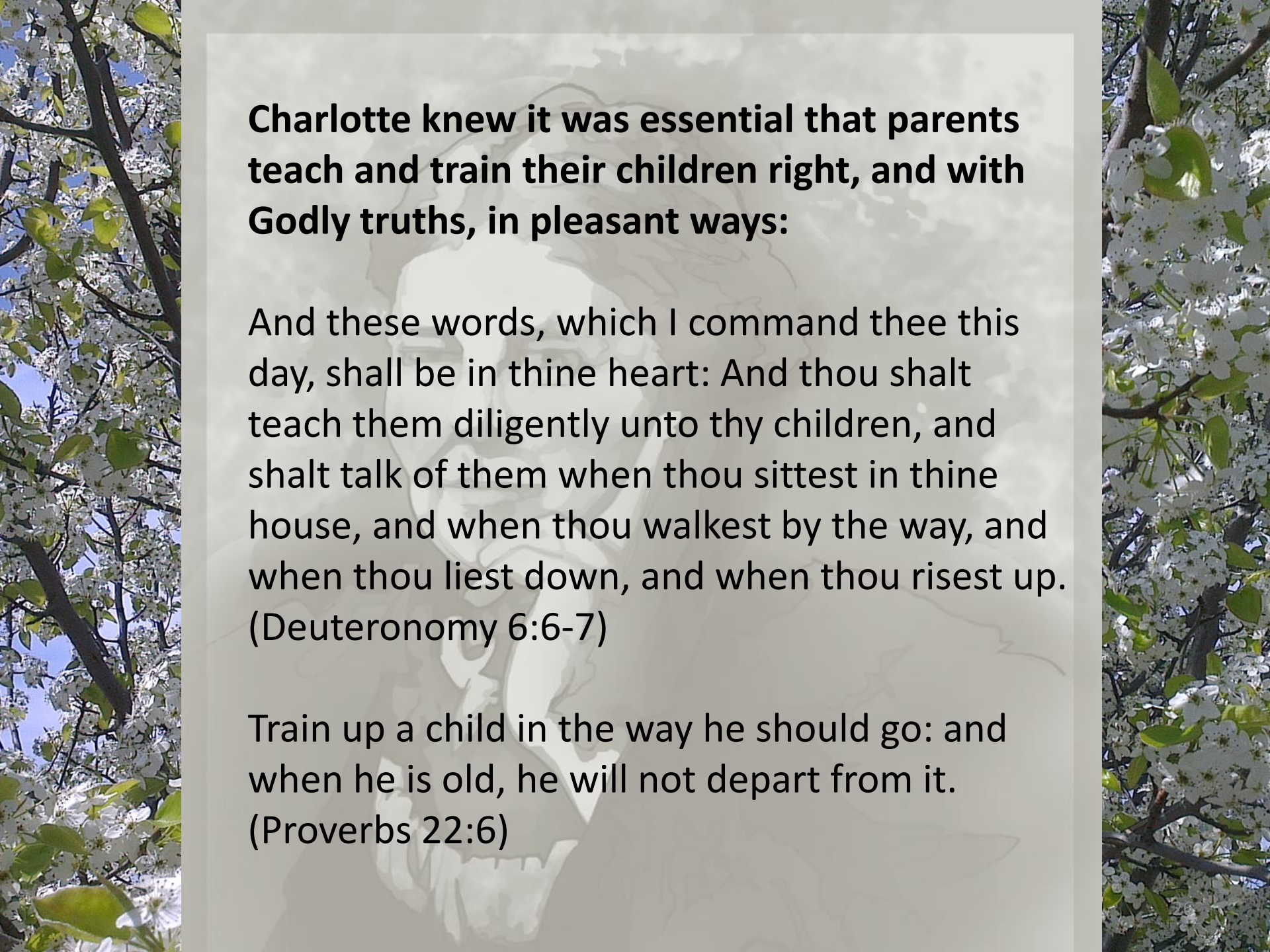




**Charlotte valued and cared about children, knowing it pleased Jesus. As it says:**

...He [Jesus] took a child, and set him in the midst of them: and when He had taken him in His arms, He said unto them, “Whosoever shall receive one of such children in My Name, receiveth Me: and whosoever shall receive Me, receiveth not Me but Him that sent Me.”  
(Mark 9:36-37)

Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in Heaven their angels do always behold the face of My Father which is in Heaven. (Matthew 18:10)



**Charlotte knew it was essential that parents teach and train their children right, and with Godly truths, in pleasant ways:**

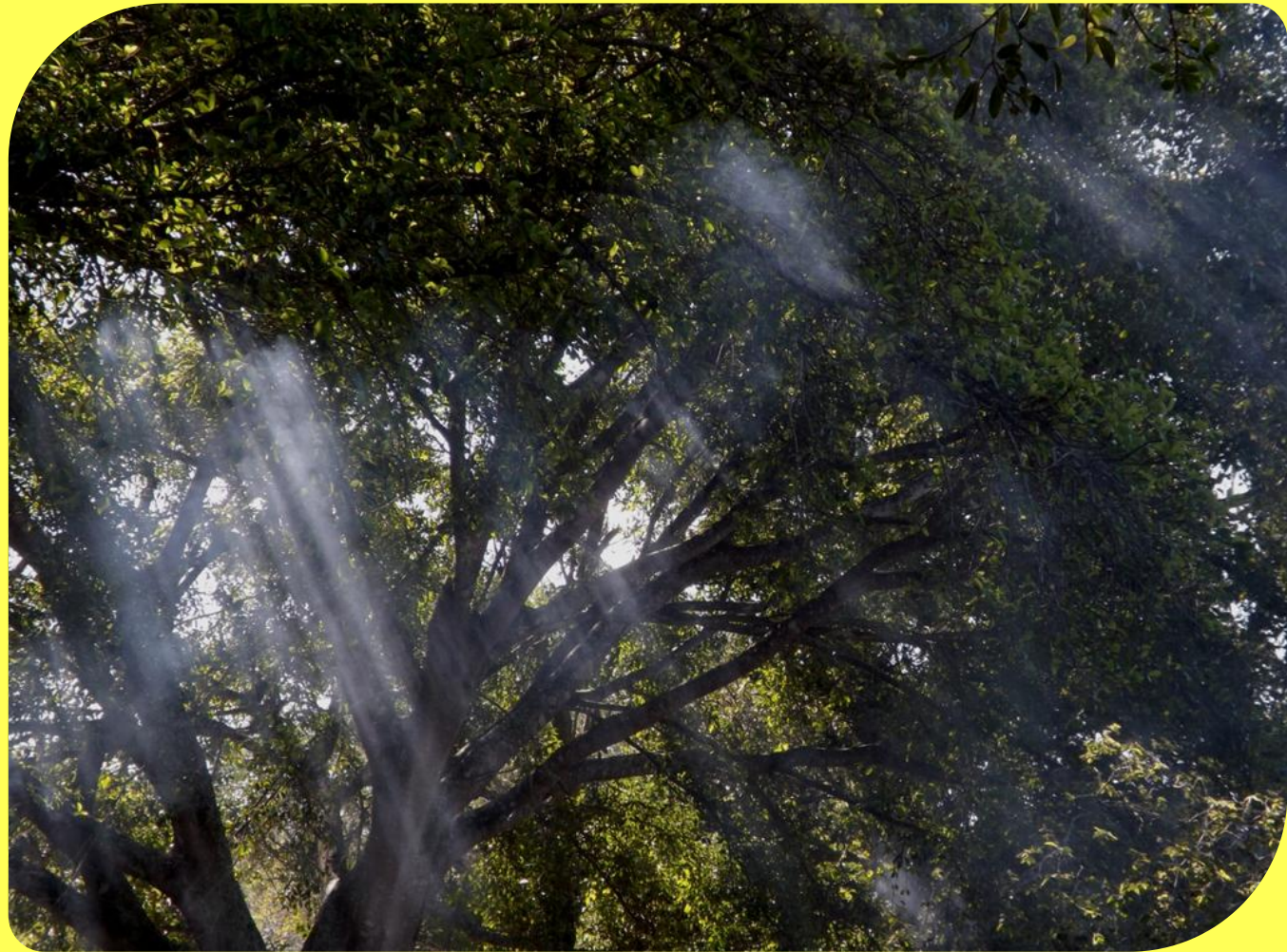
And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.  
(Deuteronomy 6:6-7)

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.  
(Proverbs 22:6)

**L I F E**

**Love**

**I  
G  
H  
T**



# **Love is a Light to Our Life:**



**Love opens our eyes to see the needs of others.**



**Love helps us know what is the best thing to do.**



**Love gives us understanding of what is hidden behind the actions of others.**



**Love chases away the dark shadows of despair and loneliness, and turns on the light of joy.**



**With love shining our hearts we can more clearly see the way we are to take.**



## ***Stop and Do a Kindness***

*Stop and do a kindness before you just walk past;  
Take some time for caring doing something that will last.*

*For moments pass and time it goes,  
And like a river moves and flows,  
This day too will turn to eve;  
Do something now before you leave.*

*Show a bit of love right now, you know it won't take long.  
Give a bit of caring, it might help to right a wrong.*

*Leave blind eyes for poor folks who,  
Have not seeing eyes like you,  
Look around, observe and do,  
A kindness out of love that's true.*

*Do a tender deed right now, before the chance is past,  
The memory of these special gifts in others lives will last.*

## THE LIMPING MAN WHO LOVED HIS NEIGHBOURS

-A True Story-

It was already dark by the time the kind man had finally arrived to the house of the charity workers. He lived in a town where many needed food and finances. He limped along, one slow painful step at a time, using a stick for support, due to his handicapped leg.

It must have taken him hours to travel. Where he got the money to pay the bus or taxi fare for part of the journey, I don't know. He had one goal in mind: to help the poor and struggling families in his neighbourhood, who had many children.

He wasn't one that would only ask others to help and give and show generosity; he practiced it himself, as well. These charity workers, who spent all their time helping others, without salary, knew him.



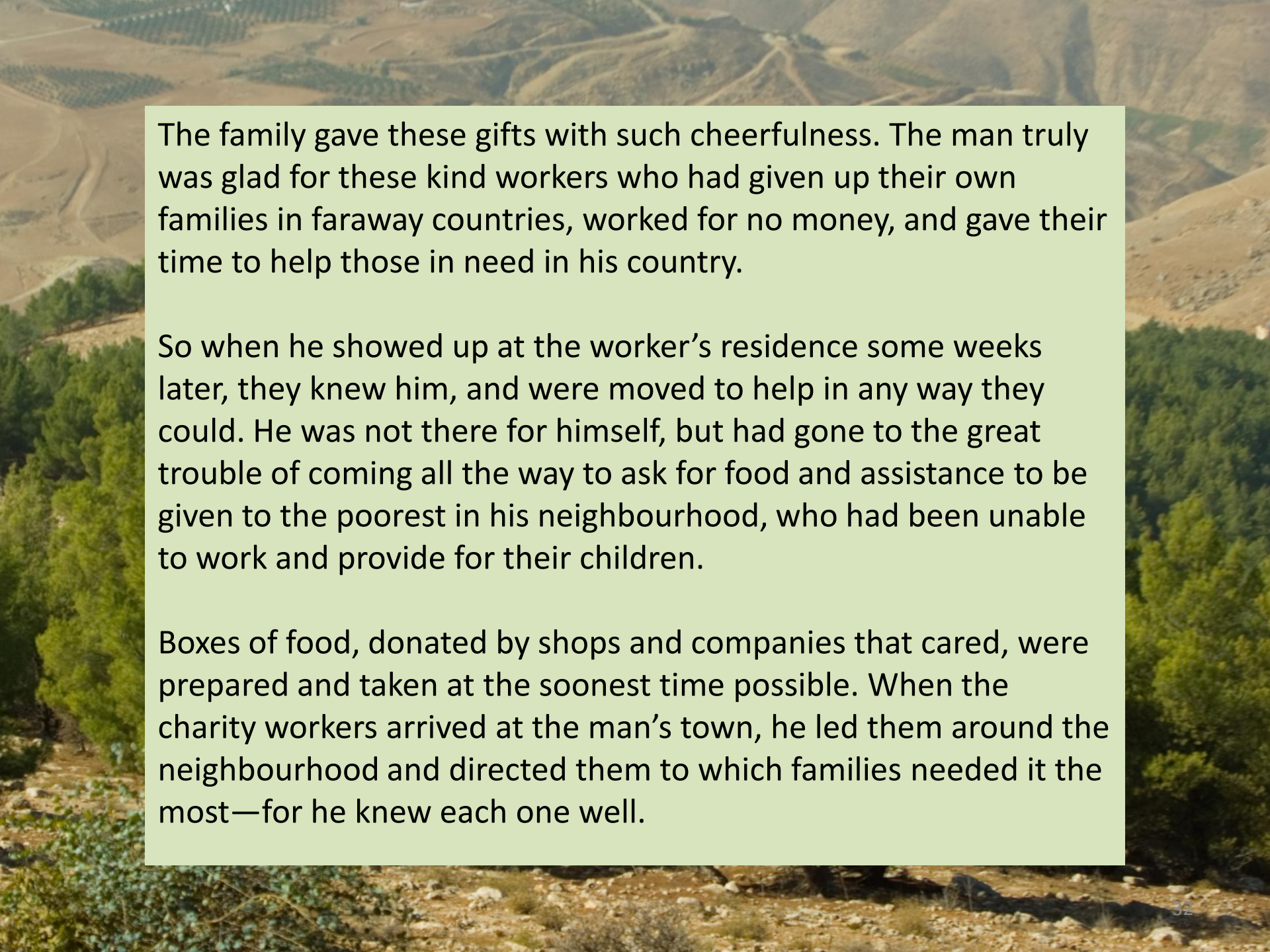
In the past he had invited them to a meal at his humble house, and spread a feast before them. Probably more food than any of his family had seen in a long time was prepared for these workers. They knew what it cost this man, but they could not refuse to accept.

Customs and humility and kindness as well, prodded them to take the time it took to journey out to his town, sit on his floor, and partake of his special meal. It was a memorable August day, 2003.

Each ate with clean bare fingers, and no plates. The happy team reached polite right hands into the huge serving dish of rice and meat, and ate, chatted, laughed, and enjoyed the time.



Afterwards he showed them his small garden where grapes were growing and ripe at that time. “Take, take” he insisted. The workers picked and ate some, thanking the man repeatedly. It was the polite thing to do: to accept a generous deed, even though they knew it cost this family much.



The family gave these gifts with such cheerfulness. The man truly was glad for these kind workers who had given up their own families in faraway countries, worked for no money, and gave their time to help those in need in his country.

So when he showed up at the worker's residence some weeks later, they knew him, and were moved to help in any way they could. He was not there for himself, but had gone to the great trouble of coming all the way to ask for food and assistance to be given to the poorest in his neighbourhood, who had been unable to work and provide for their children.

Boxes of food, donated by shops and companies that cared, were prepared and taken at the soonest time possible. When the charity workers arrived at the man's town, he led them around the neighbourhood and directed them to which families needed it the most—for he knew each one well.





A box of food was given to a family with nine children, who had no income, nor running water. Another was taken to a family with eleven children, living in something resembling a shed or garage that stood near the stream—their source of water.

Another family the workers gave food to had a method to insure that all the family members got at least some food throughout the week—they chose to take turns eating: One day it was half of the family's turn to eat one simple meal, the next day the other half of the family ate.

That's how they got through life. The box of donated food was well appreciated.



The man started with a generous deed—giving though he himself was poor; then travelling far with a halting step to humbly ask for help, all for the good of others.

With this he showed an example of what it means to:

**"Love your neighbour".**