



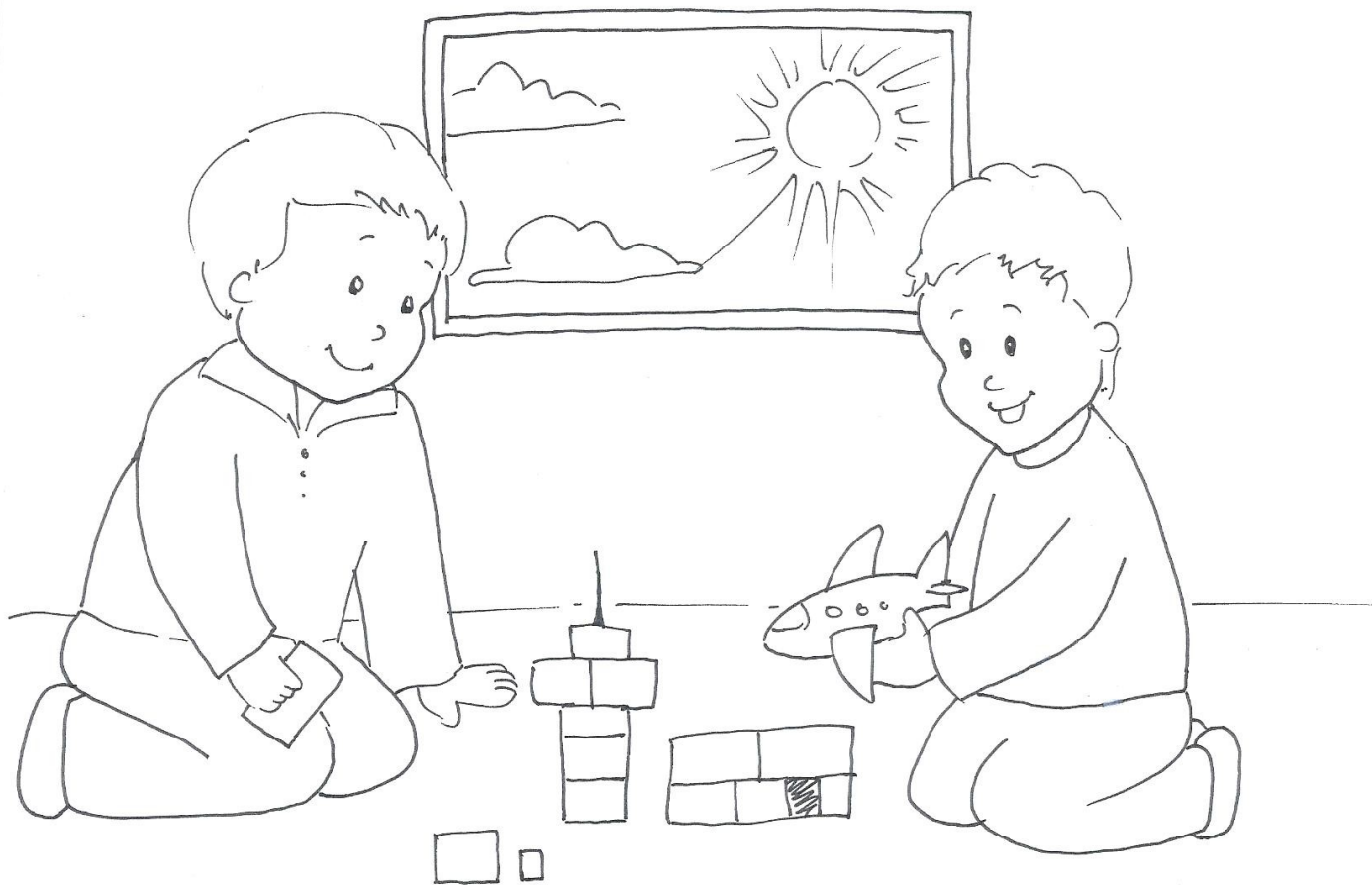
THE LEGO TRUCK

NED—05

The Lego Truck

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Illustrated by Fleur Celeste

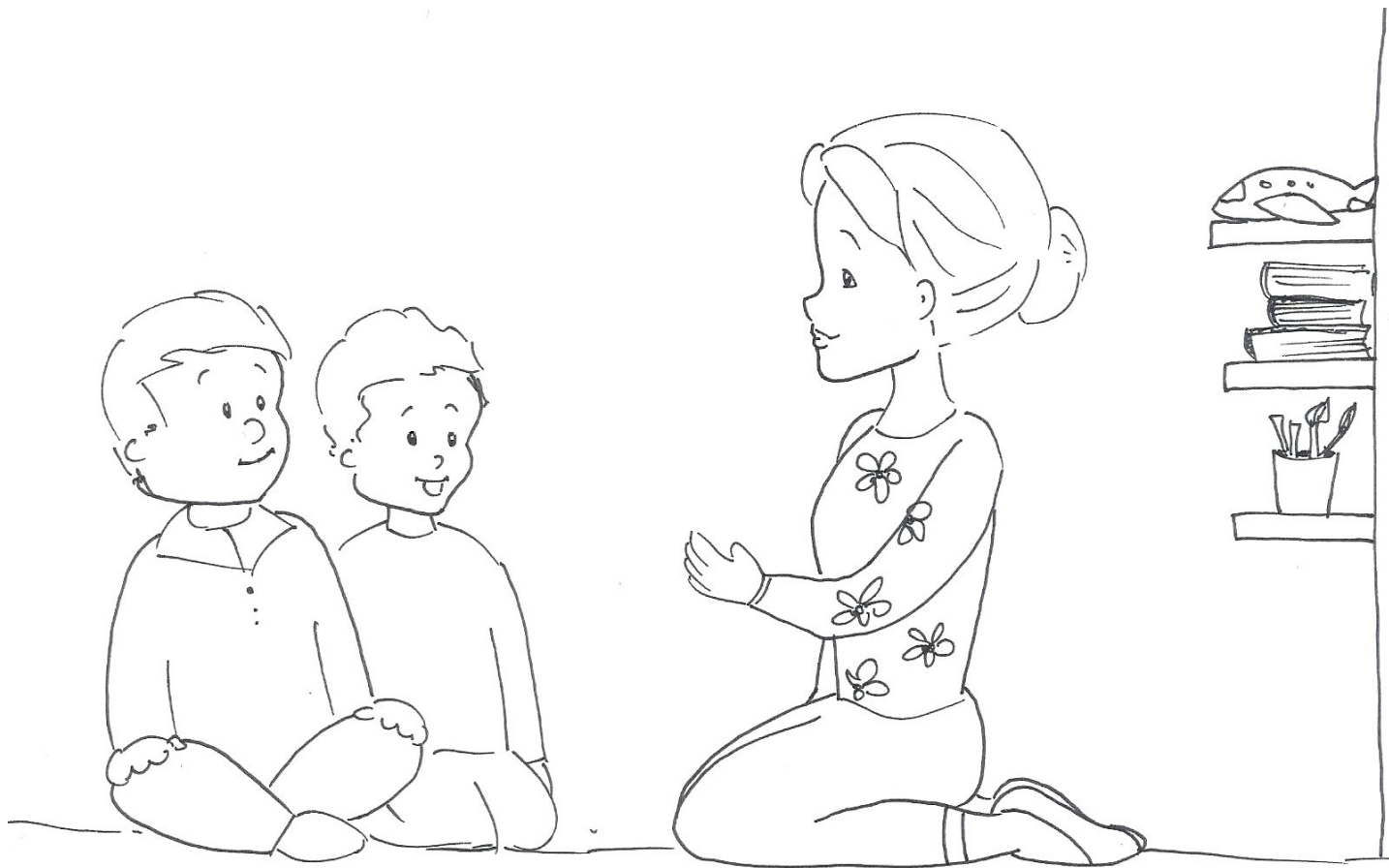
Dedicated to my three wonderful boys!



Teddy was Tony's younger brother, and for some reason he always seemed to like doing whatever Tony was doing. The toys Tony had, seemed the best and most fun also to Teddy.

One day Mother's friend gave the children a gift—a new silver-coloured airplane, with a pilot. It could zoom on the floor, or you could pick it up and fly it around.

At play time, the boys made an “airport” and lined up the toy people who were waiting to go for a ride in the airplane. They made a runway with blocks for it to drive on and then take off into the sky. It was fun!



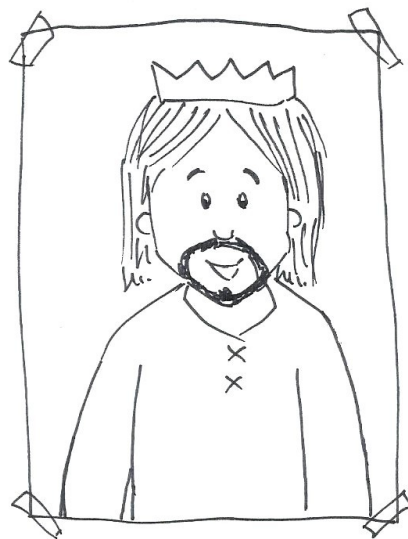
The only thing the brothers had trouble with was deciding who was going to play with the new toy first.

One day, when they both wanted to use it at the same time, they were crying instead of laughing at play time.

So Mother took the airplane and put it aside for a moment. She said, “Let’s pray for Jesus to help you have a happy play time, by helping you enjoy making each other happy.”

Tony prayed,

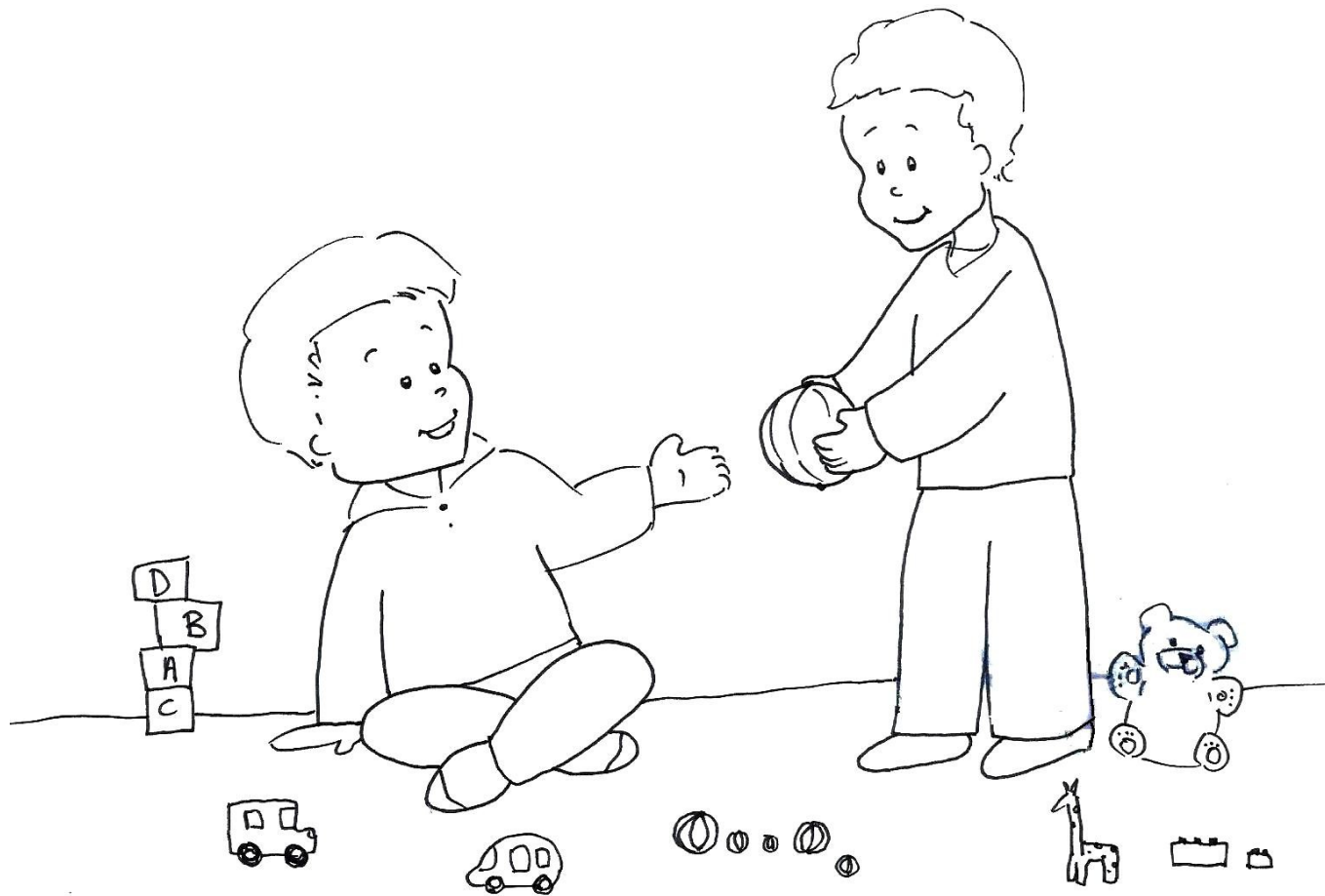
“Jesus, I’m so happy that we have this fun airplane to play with. And I’m glad that I have brothers to play games with. It wouldn’t be so fun if I was always alone.”



“Sometimes it’s hard for me to let Teddy have the first turn with the toy that I really enjoy. Please help us to have fun times together by being willing to share even more than trying to get things for ourselves. The Bible says to be cheerful givers. Please help us, Jesus, to do it. Amen.”

Mother said, “You may not feel cheerful when Teddy has just the toy that you want to play with, but now that you’ve prayed, Jesus can do the miracle and make you happy to see Teddy smile first.

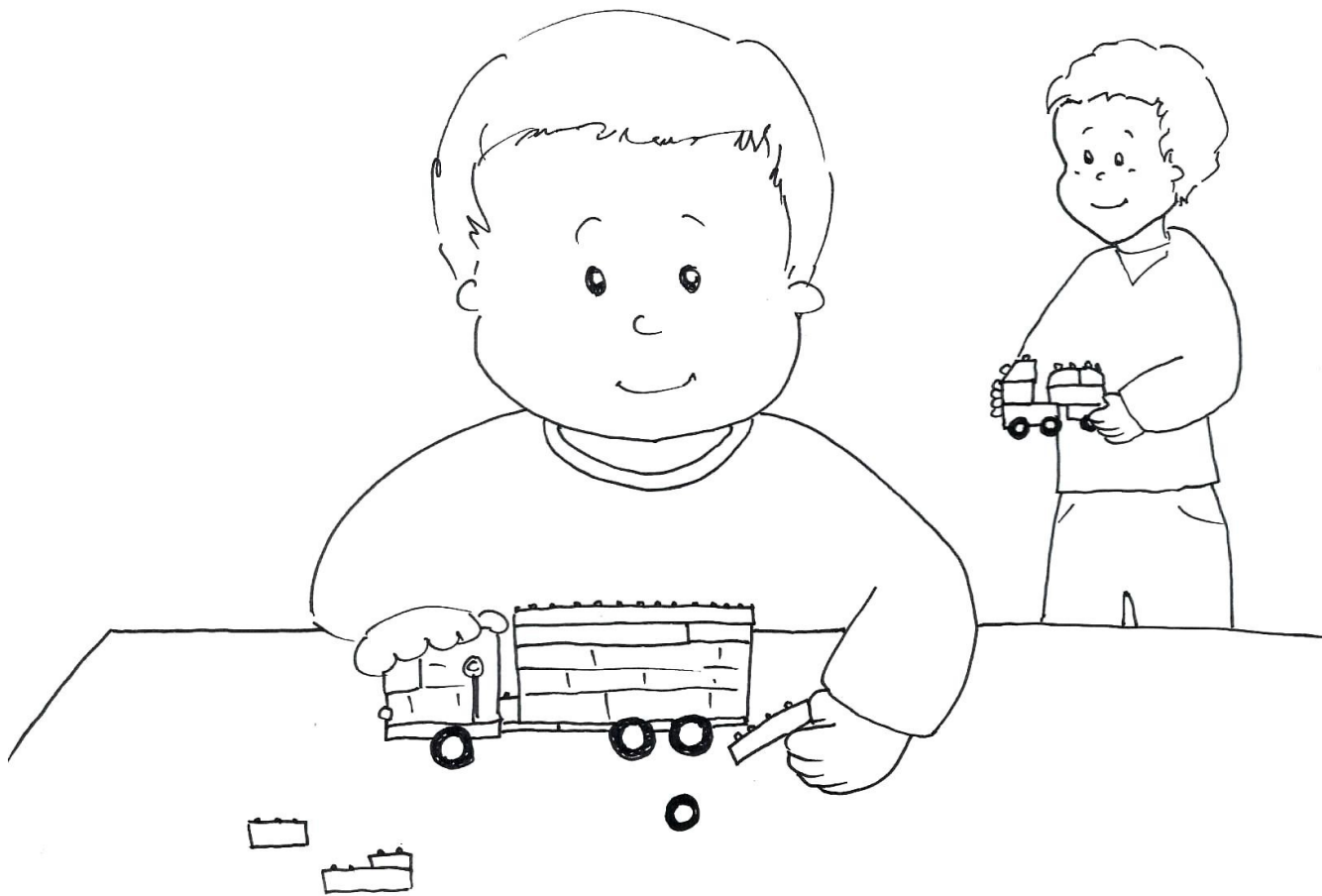
“Jesus can bless you with even better play times, and also a happier brother who will share also with you. Thank you for wanting to be a kind brother and helping Teddy learn to share and give, through showing him how.”



Tony decided to try something new. He decided that every time his little brother Teddy asked nicely to play with something that he had, that he would share it right way with Teddy.

At first it was hard, and even made him feel a bit sad because he wanted to keep playing with things. But then he noticed something amazing happened! His brother stopped grabbing things away from him.

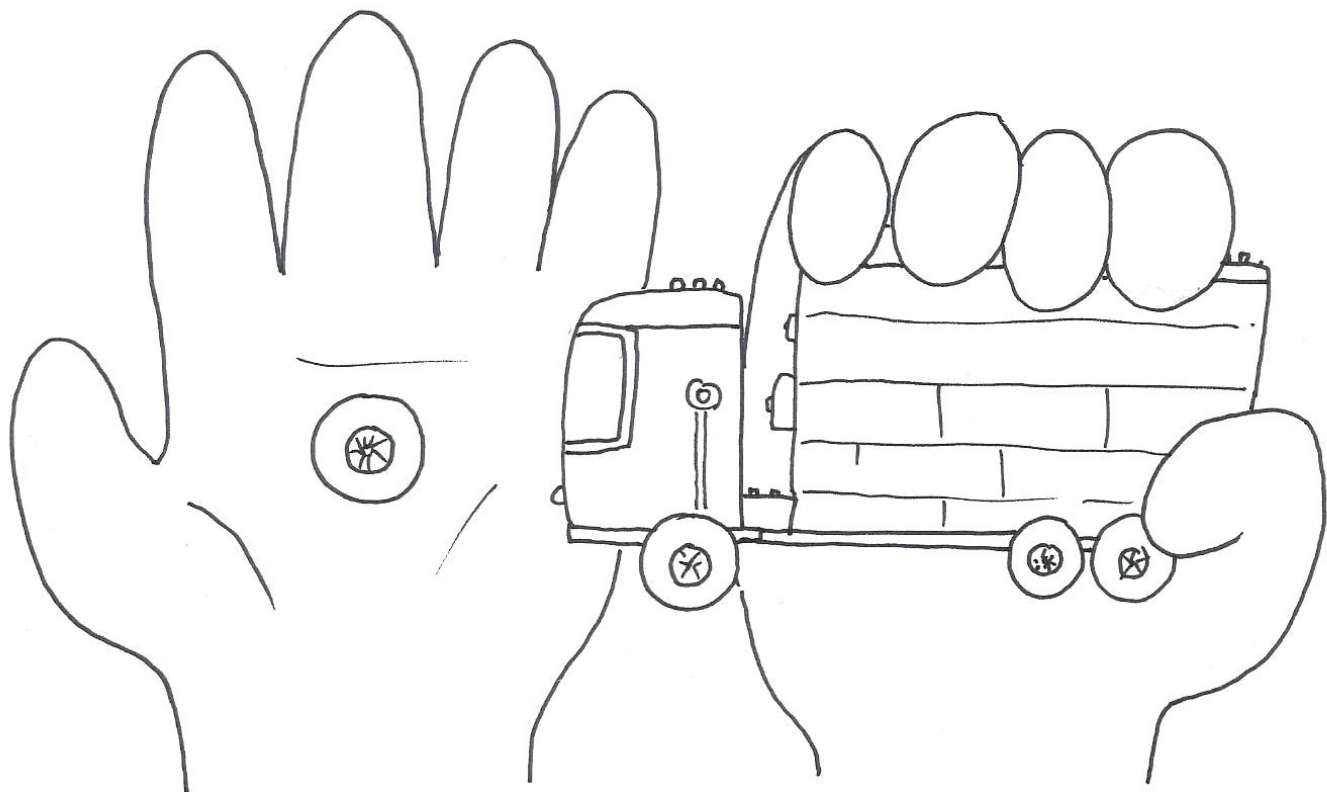
Also, Teddy started to always ask nicely, instead of crying and getting all upset. Then, by the end of the day, Teddy was even giving things to Tony to show him kindness, too. They were starting to really have fun.



The next day Tony had been looking forward to playing with his new toy Lego truck. He'd built it all by himself. He'd added lights, the exhaust pipe, the driver's seat, and even a spare tire for the truck.

He wanted to now add on a hook as well as a tiny chain for the truck to pull other cars that needed repair. Just as he was reaching for the pieces he needed, so did his younger brother, Teddy, reach for them as well.

Teddy had his own toy truck, made out of Duplo, so he didn't really need the Lego pieces. He just wanted to do things the same as his older brother, and join in the fun.

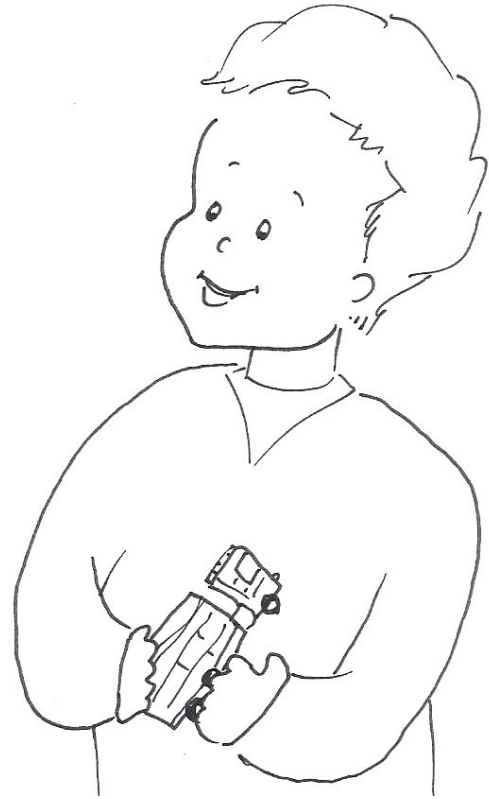


What should Tony do? He got an idea.

“Teddy, do you want to trade vehicles for a little while? Just please be sure to keep my Lego truck exactly the same. You have an amazing Duplo truck. I’ll play with it, if you’d like to borrow my Lego truck.”

Teddy was very happy. He had the best brother he could imagine, who was always thinking of ways to cheer him up and make him feel included.

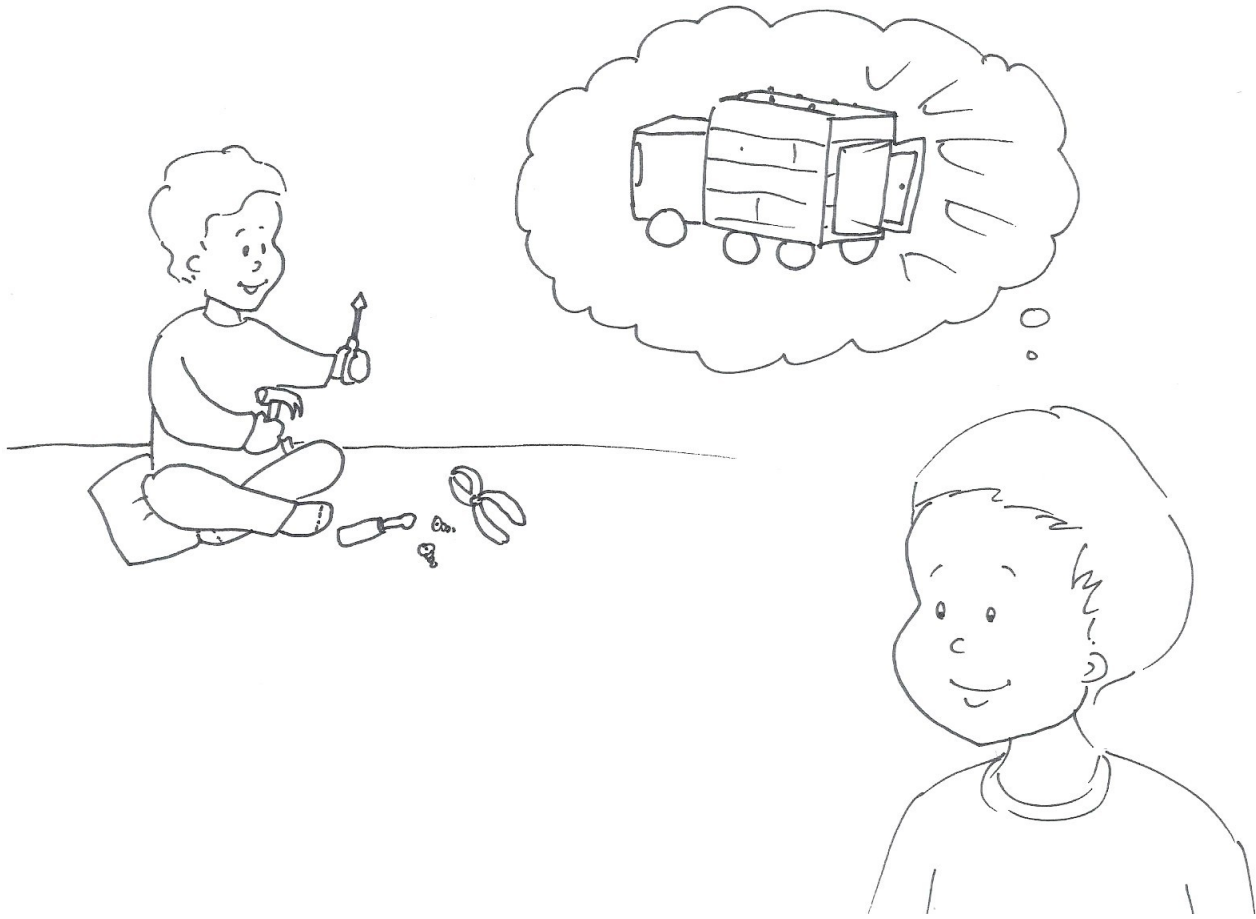
After about ten minutes of playing with Tony’s Lego truck, Teddy was interested in the set of toy tools instead, and Tony could resume his Lego truck constructing.



Tony's Lego truck was mostly intact, with only one part missing: The spare tire. It was nowhere to be seen.

“Where is it?” Tony thought, and began to regret that he'd let Teddy borrow it. After a few minutes of looking, and of course praying, he found it on the floor under another toy.

“I'm glad I found it now, but I wish it hadn't gotten lost,” Tony thought, and began to feel sad about the time lost trying to find it, instead of being able to work on building it more. However, Tony prayed to have a loving heart, and he chose to forgive his little brother.

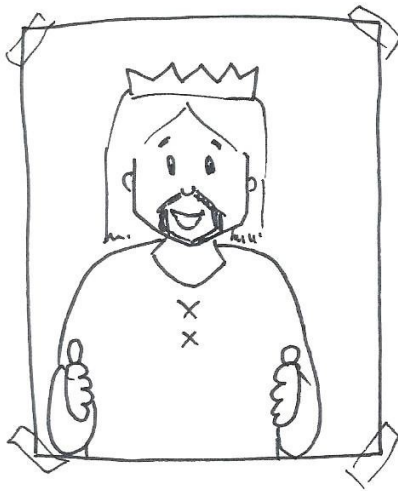
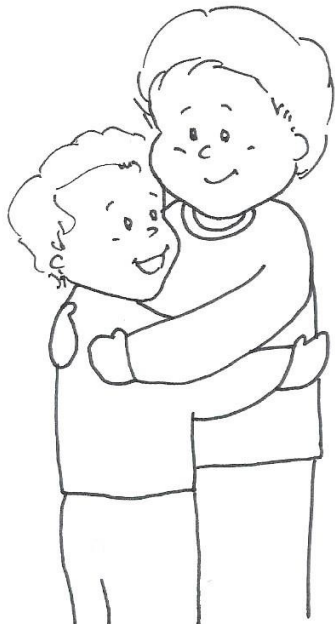


Tony got a new and better thought.

“What if instead of sharing it, I chose not to, and because of that my little brother ended up crying the whole time, wishing he had what I had?”

“He might have tried to grab it, and it might have gotten all broken then. However, because I shared it, we had a fun time together, even if I didn’t get to play with my own toy the whole time. And it was fun playing with his Duplo truck anyway.”

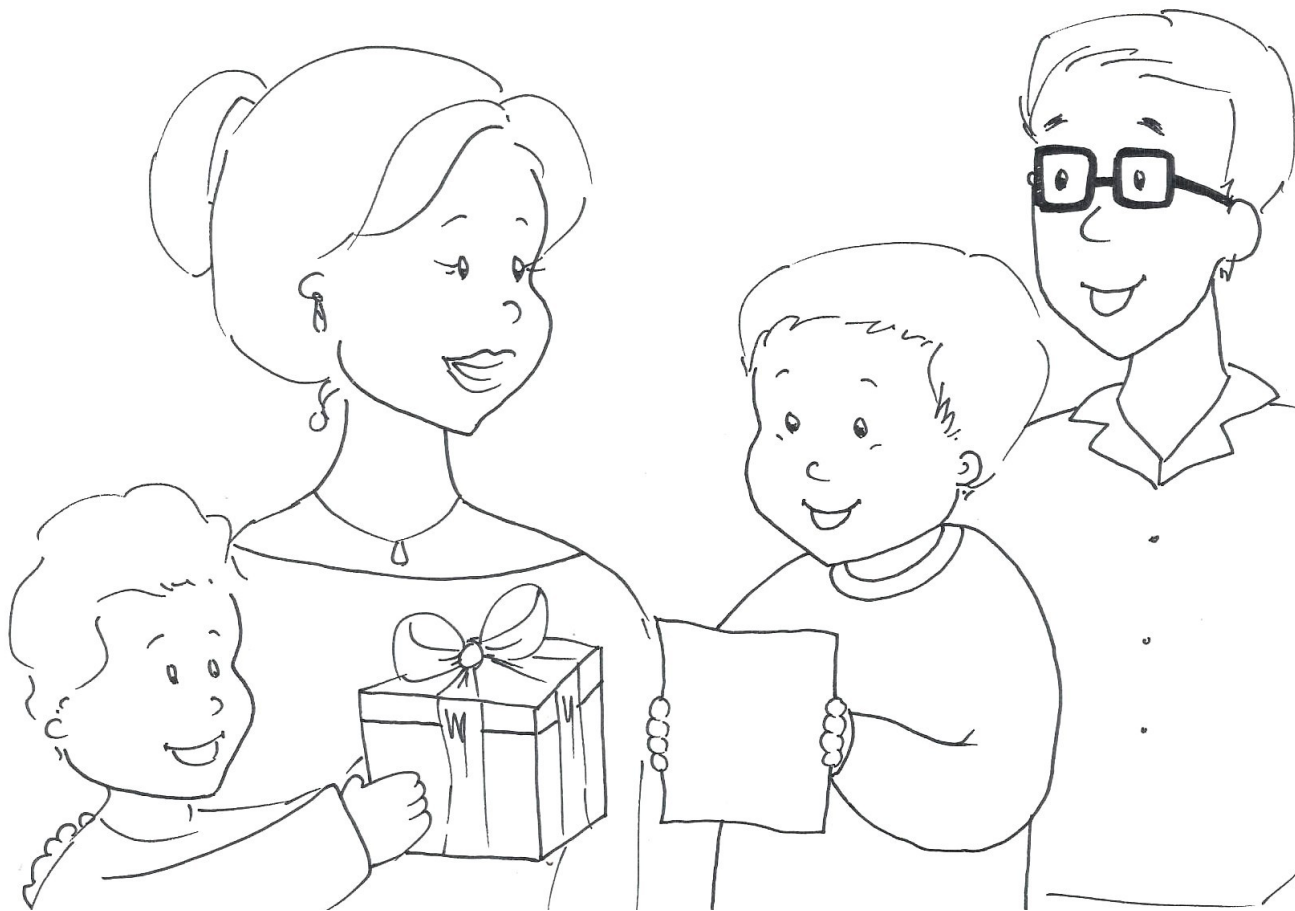
With that happy thought, Tony was able to finish making his amazing vehicle, and he even got new ideas of what could be added on to make it extra special.



Both Mother and Jesus were smiling, watching the happy boys play. Jesus was happy because Tony had discovered the reason for the toys He'd supplied for them—not just to have a fun time, but to learn things.

Tony had learned one of the most important things: kindness and love, making others happy first, and also forgiveness, too. If Tony could see Jesus with his natural eyes, he might have seen Him writing down an idea for the next surprise He wanted to give to him.

A few days later Mother, and Daddy, and Teddy presented Tony with a surprise! —Jesus gave the idea.



There was a note that said,

“Tony, you’ve learned to do things in such a loving way, to make your brother happy first. And now here is something special for you. We love you so much and want you to be happy, too. With love, Mother, Daddy and Teddy.”

With the note was a package of yummy treats and a toy that Tony really enjoyed. Tony was so happy now for each time that he had shared with Teddy, even when it was a little difficult. Fun things were coming back to him now in return.

“Thank you, Mother and Daddy, and thank you Teddy for being a friend to me, too. I’m glad I have such a fun little brother,” Tony said.

