

The Lost Toy Digger



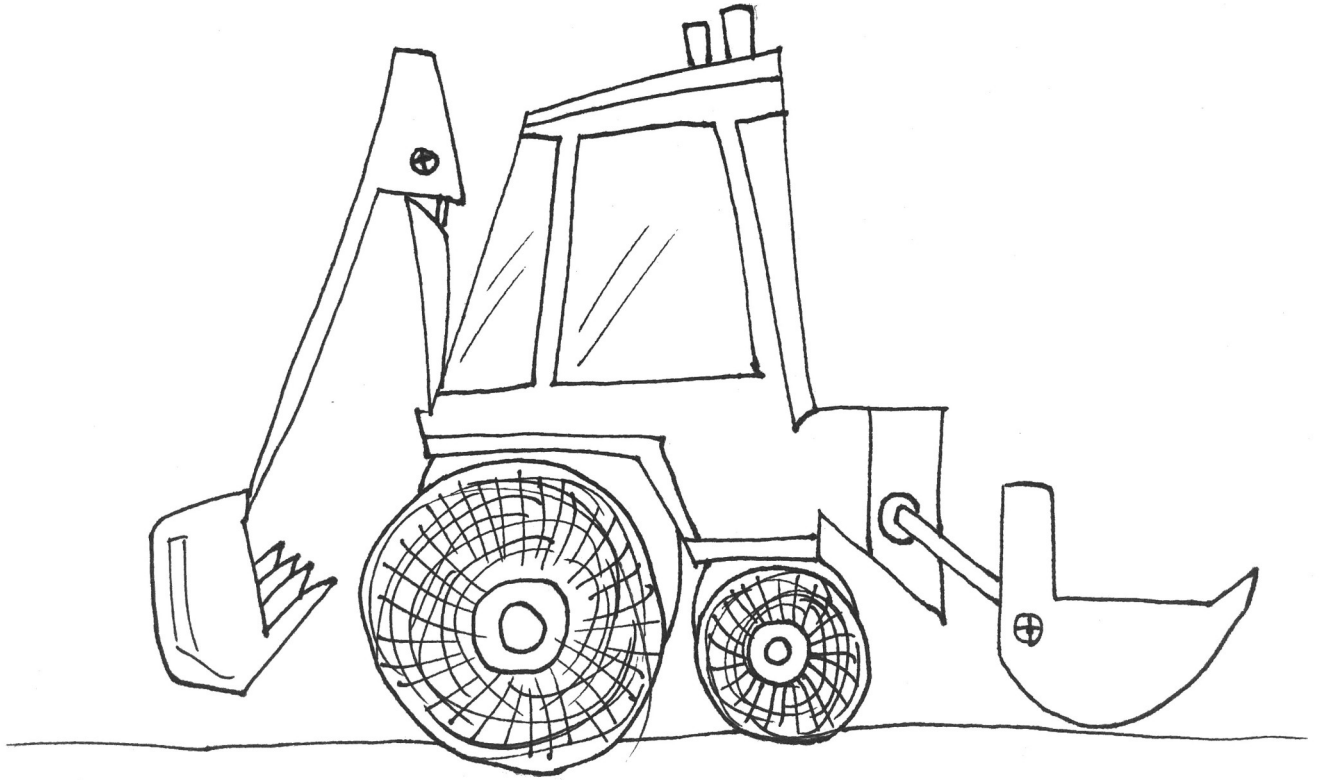
NED—09

The Lost Toy Digger

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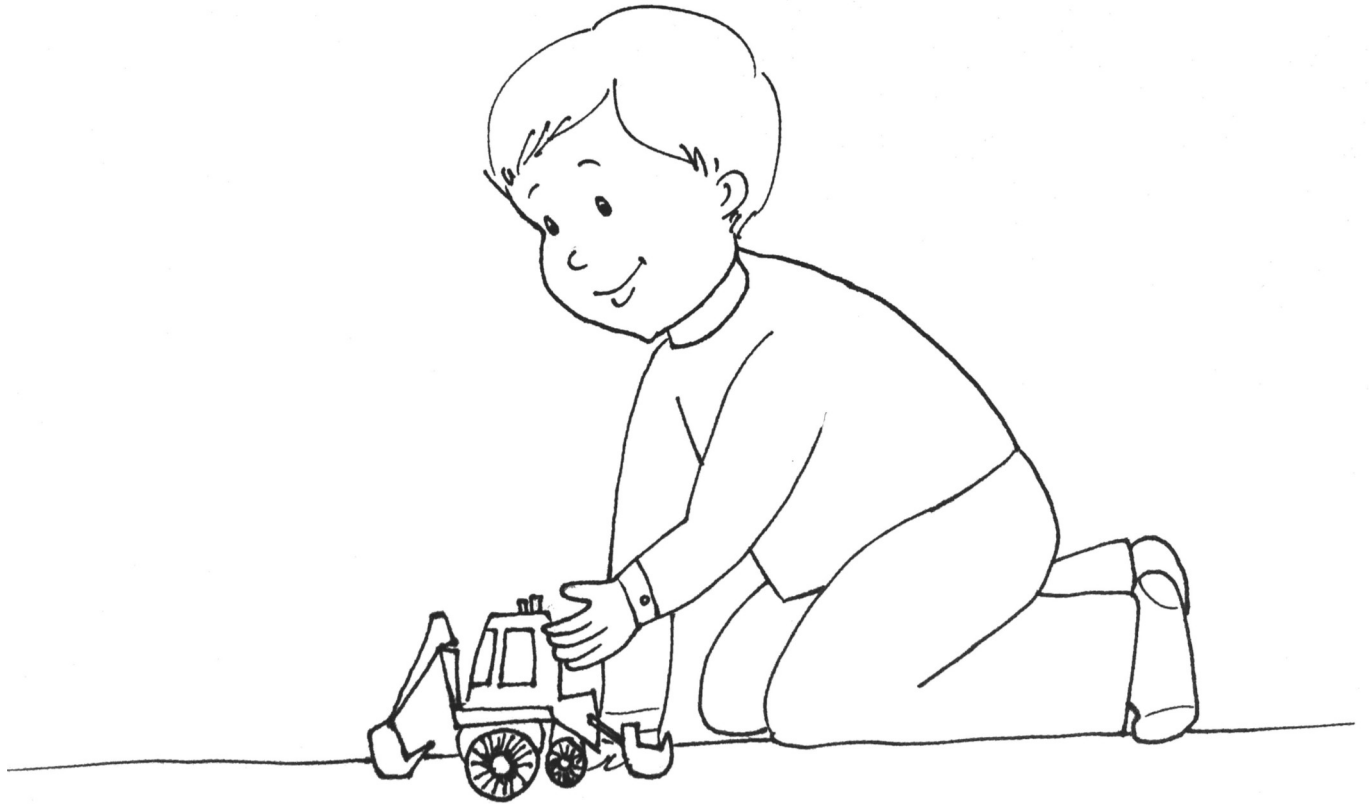
Dedicated to my three wonderful boys!



“Where did I put it?”

Ned said while looking under every bed and couch where he thought it might have been. It was his yellow and green digger that his daddy gave him on his birthday.

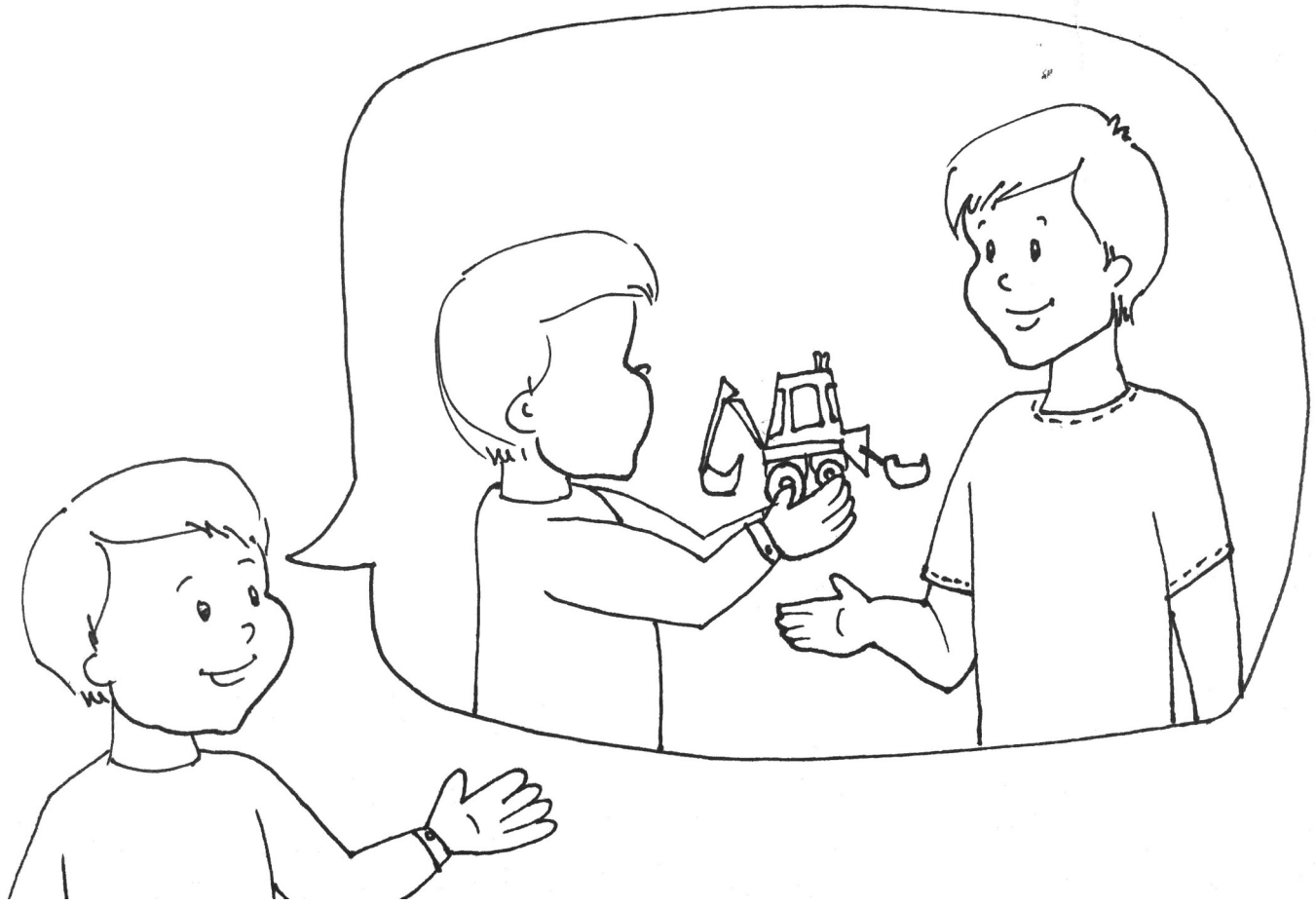
He couldn't remember where it was now.



Just then he saw it. It wasn't lost. Tony had taken it without asking and was playing with it.

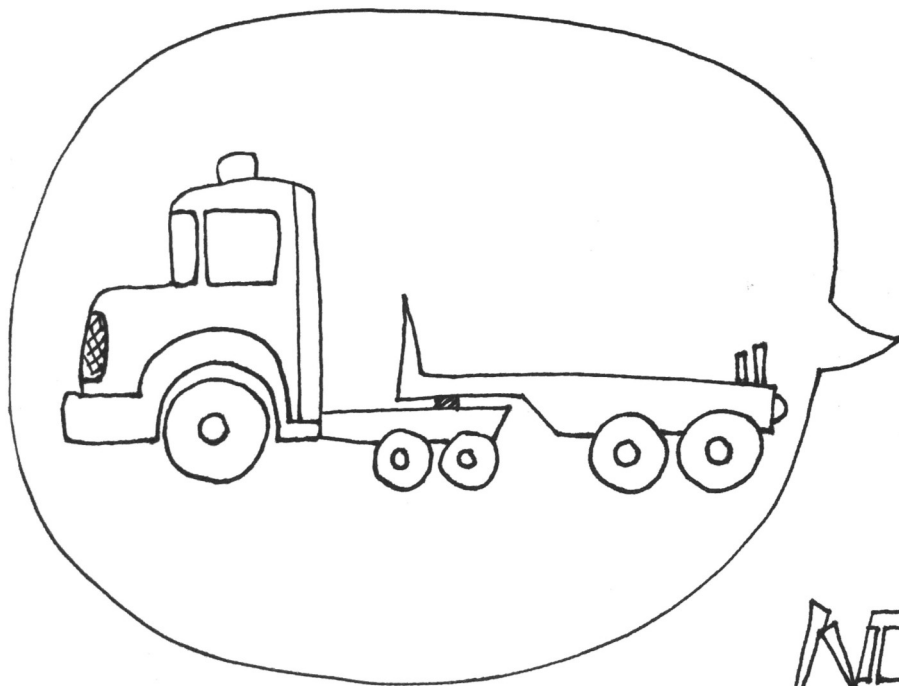
Ned wanted to grab it and tell his brother to not do it again. However, just before he did that, he remembered a Bible verse.

“Be ye kind, one to another. Tenderhearted, forgiving one another...” (Ephesians 4:32)



Instead of acting in anger he asked Tony nicely, “Where did you find my digger? I’ve been looking everywhere for it.”

Tony said it was on the porch, and he was planning on giving it to Ned after playing with it for a little while.

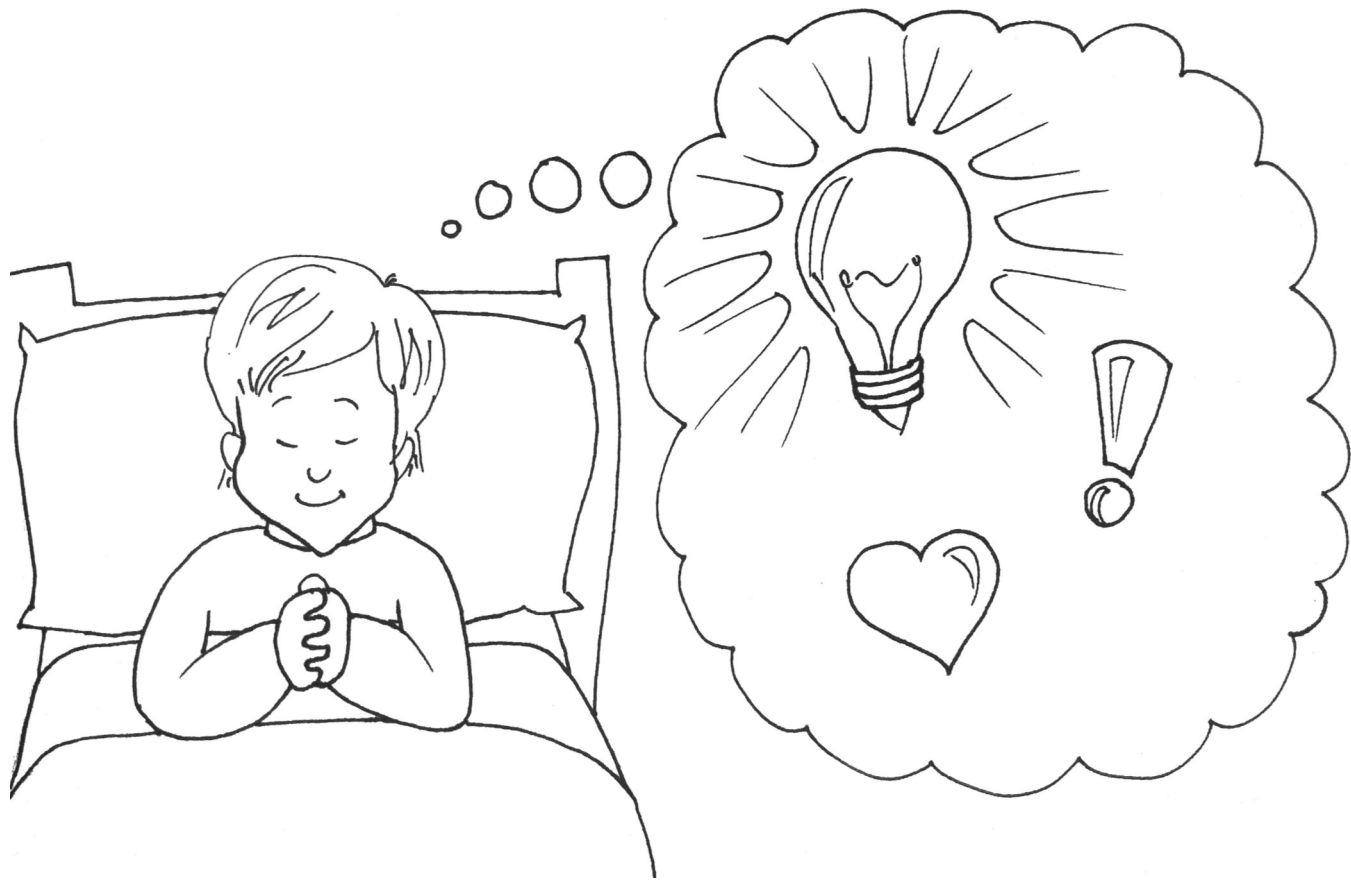


Now Ned was glad he had been patient.

“Thank you for finding it. I’m so glad to see it again. If you like, you can play with my toy truck and wagon instead.”

So the boys traded and Ned was able to play again with his favorite digger.

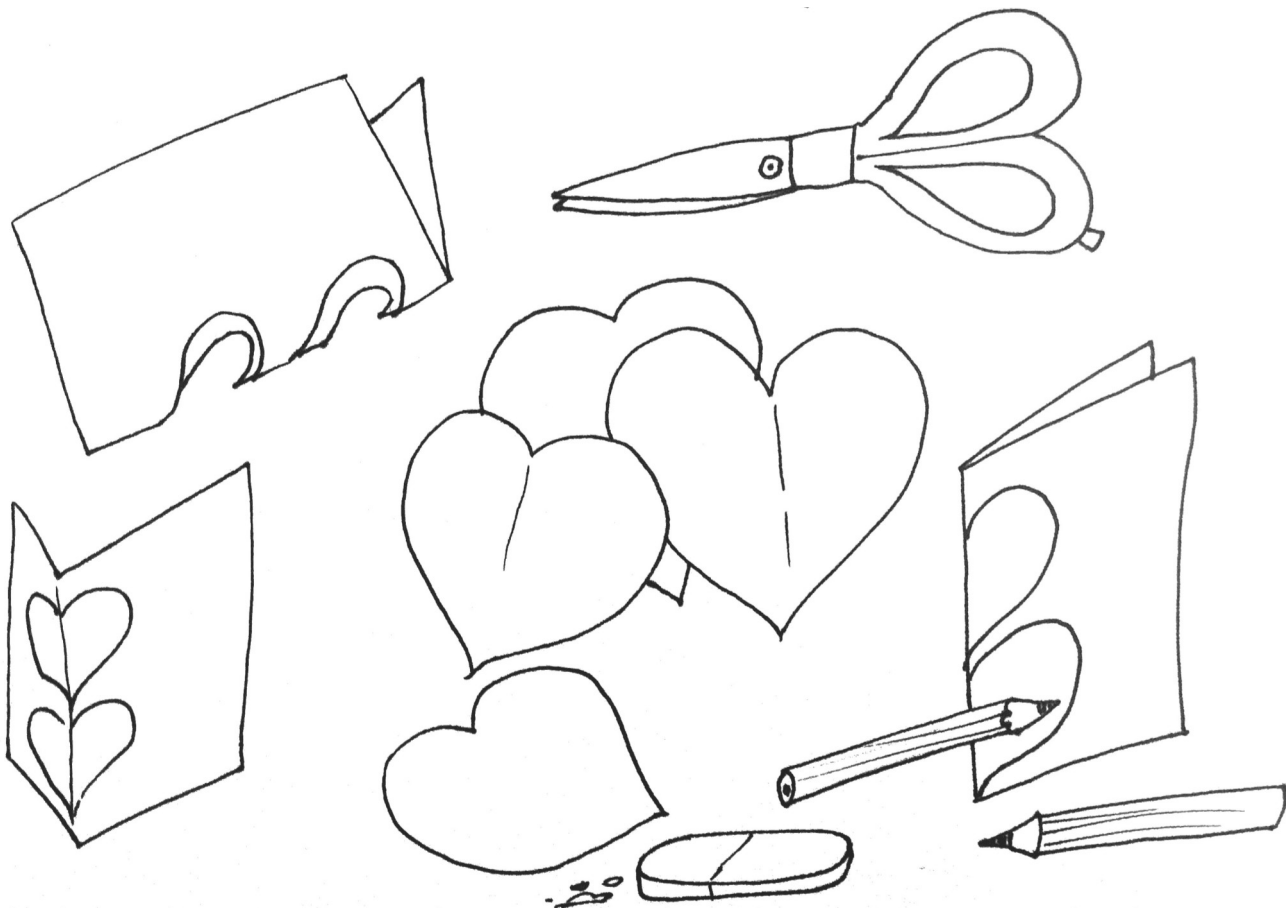
That night while Ned was in bed he began to think how important it is to act kindly and to be patient with each other.



Ned prayed for Jesus to help them have a happier, more loved-filled home. The answer came right away through an idea that popped in his head. He would share it the next morning with his family.

“I had a fun idea last night, after I prayed!”
Ned said at the breakfast table.

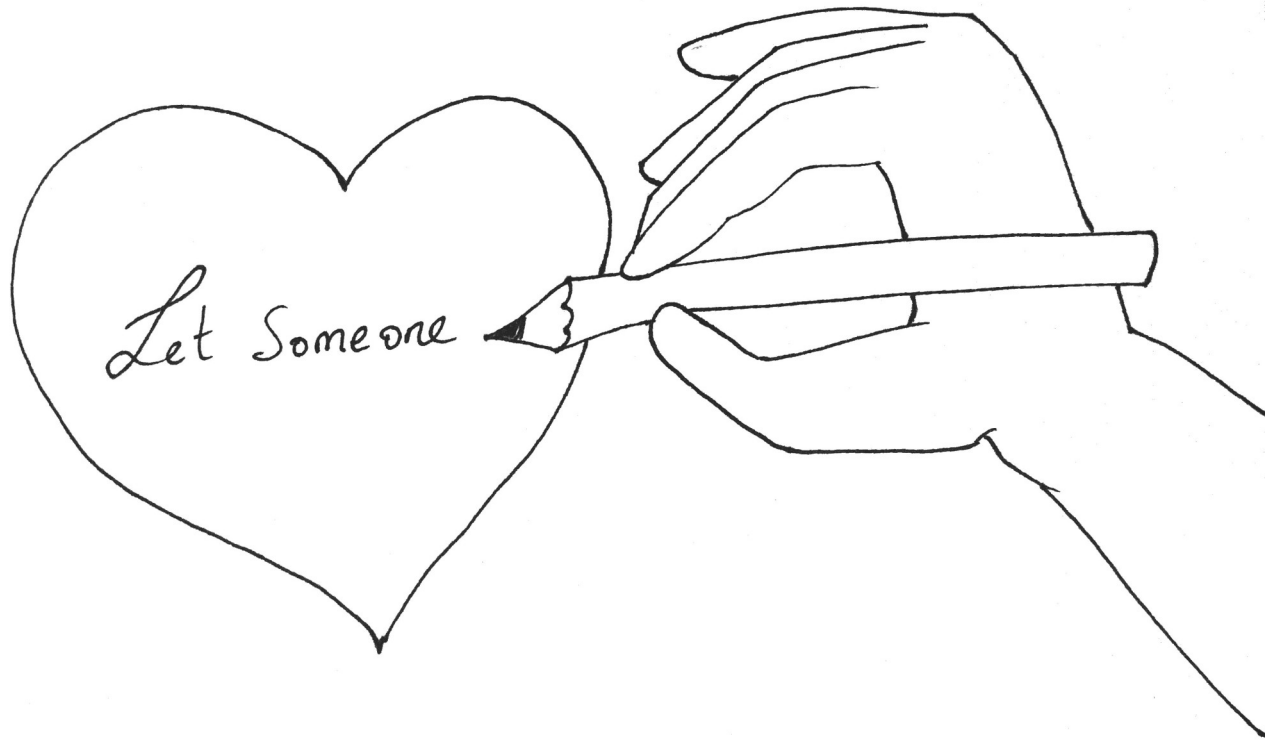
Mother and Daddy were interested to hear it.



“It’s a game we can start to play today!”

Tony and Teddy looked up at their big brother when they heard the words “game” and “play”. They were always eager for fun.

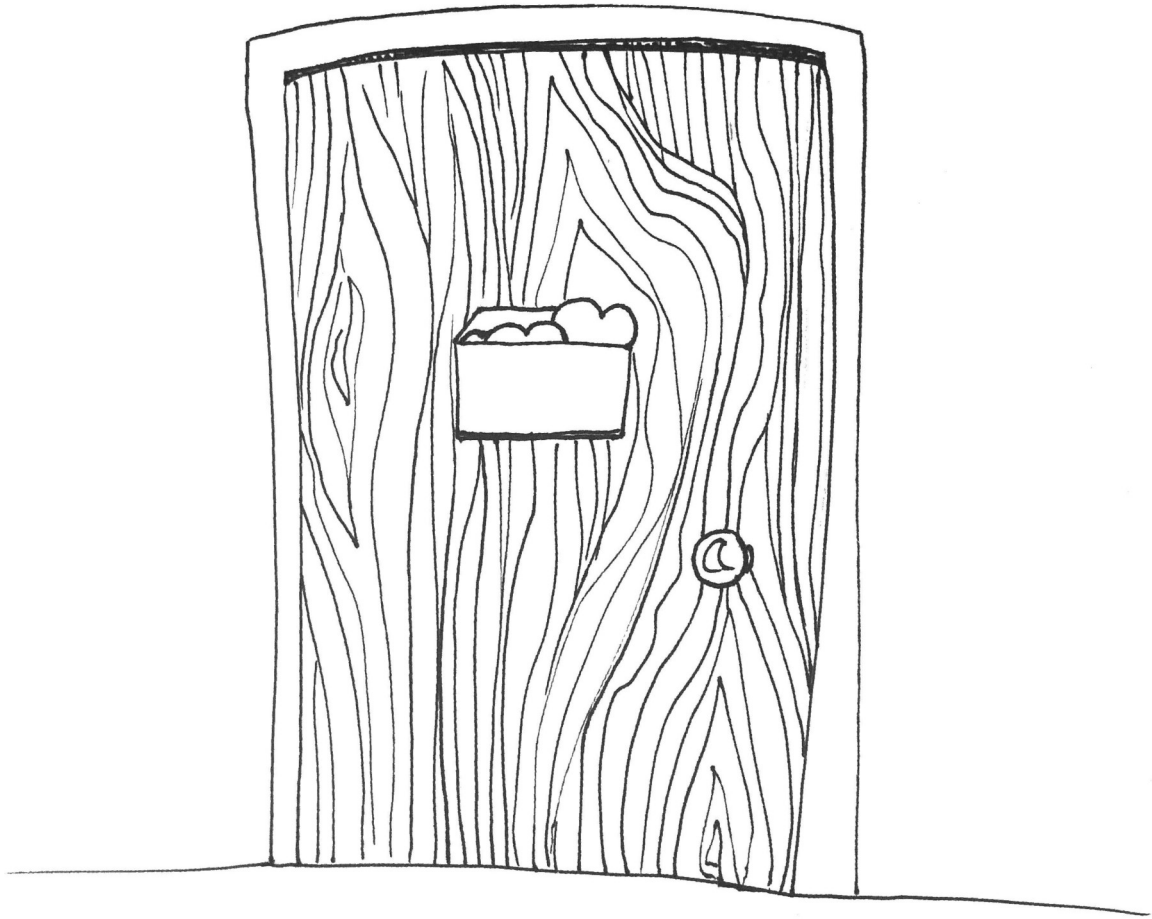
Ned said, “We can cut out paper hearts and write on them ideas of kind deeds that we can do for each other. Each day we can pick a few hearts and do what it says to do! That way we can keep showing love and kindness to one another, and we won’t forget.”



Tony was quick to get some coloured paper after breakfast, and Ned drew hearts on the paper.

Teddy tried to cut some of them out, with Mother helping him. Together they thought of what to say on each one.

Mother wrote the ideas on each paper heart.



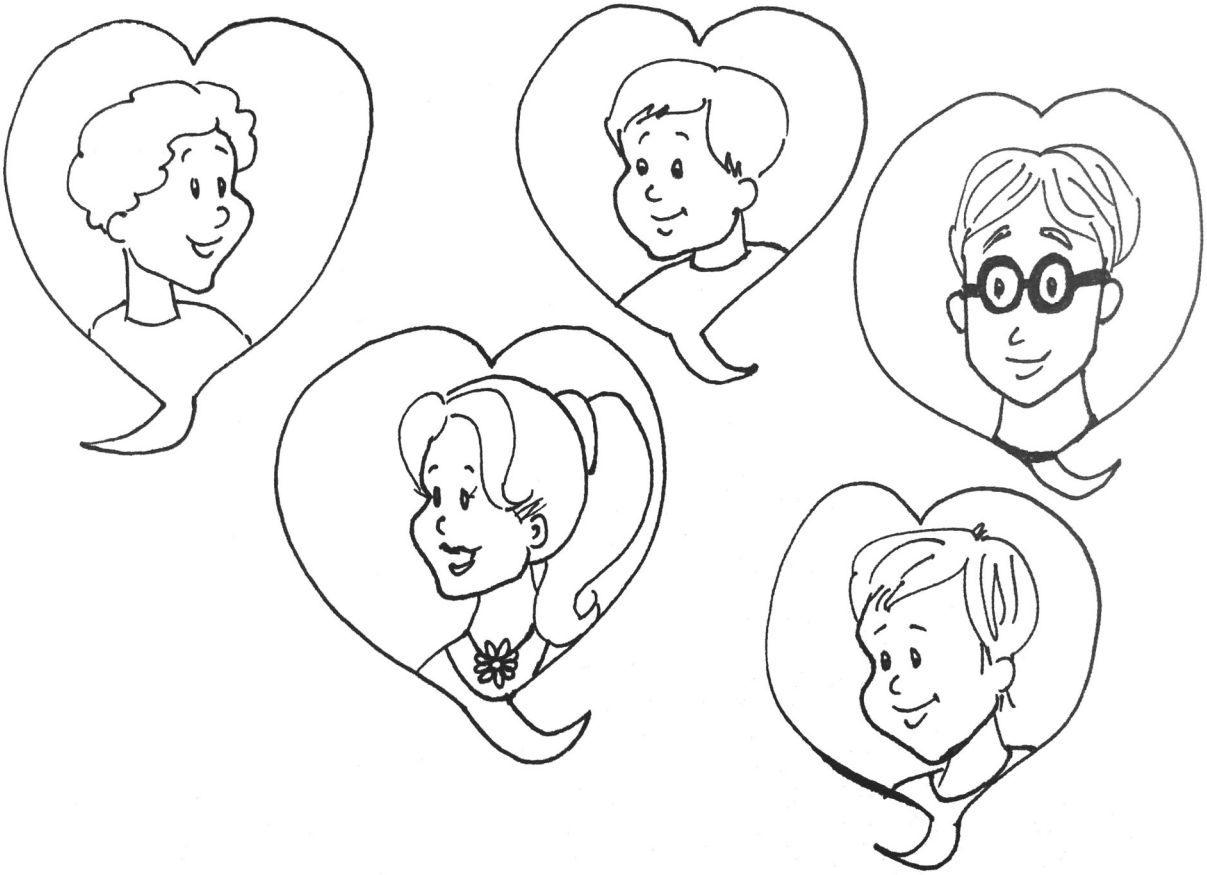
The paper hearts were placed in a special coloured envelope and put on the door.

The happy family was eager to start their “Love and Kindness Game.”

Ned and Tony picked the cards for that day.

The first one said:

“Let someone else be the first to play with the toy.”

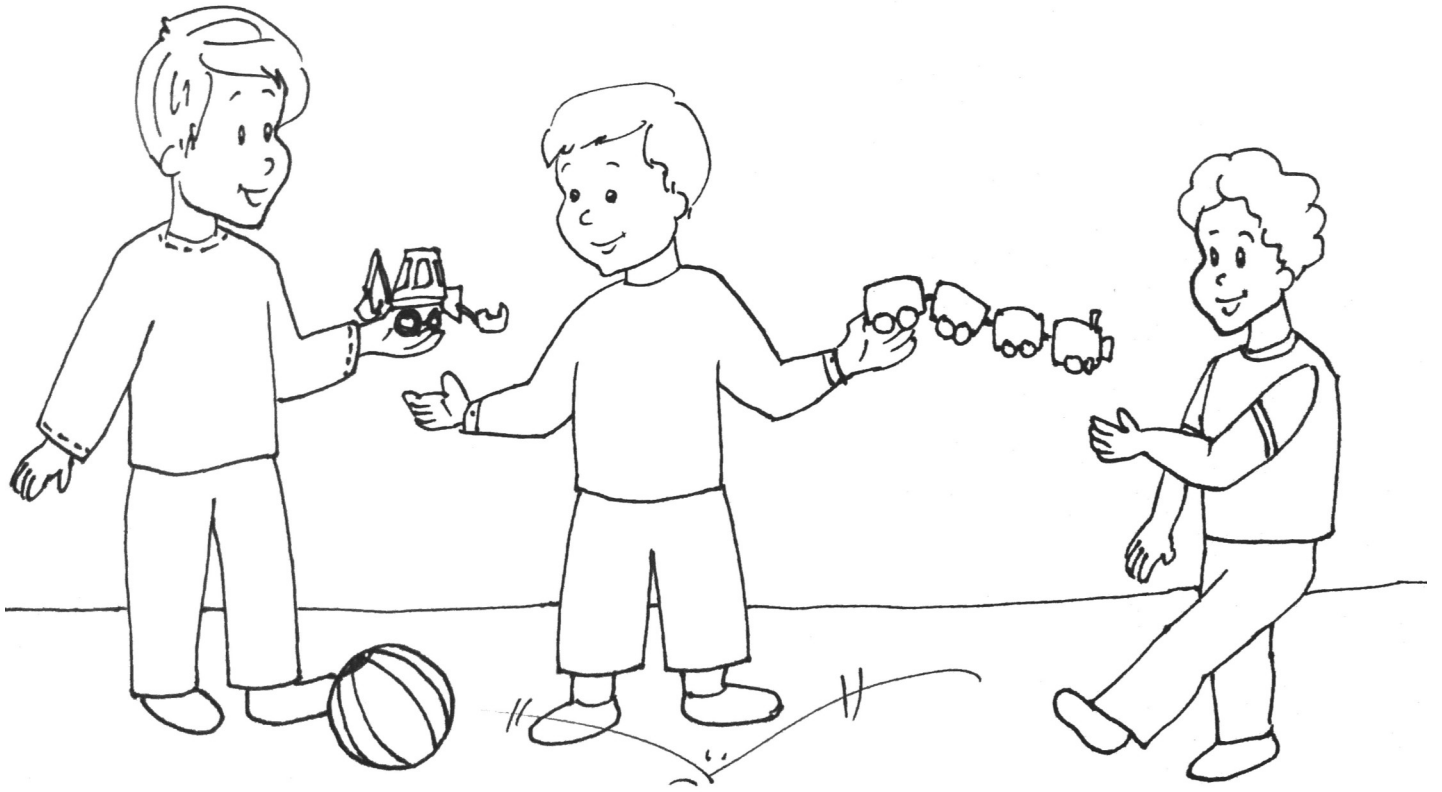


The second heart card said,

“Tell each one in your family one thing that you like about them!”

The hearts were put where they could be easily seen and remembered as the love deeds for the day!

At lunch time they all had a round of telling each other what things they appreciated about one another, then the boys were off to play.



During play time, Ned remembered what the other card had said, and let Tony have the first turn with his toy digger.

This inspired Tony to let Teddy have the first turn with his favorite toy train. Then Teddy, feeling happy, gave Ned a turn with his favorite ball.

A happy day it was, full of smiles, appreciation and kindness.

