



**NED—13**

# **Bigger Tony**





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*Dedicated to my three wonderful boys!*



It was hard to believe that it was already his birthday again! The year had passed quickly by for Tony. So much had happened.

Tony had grown in so many ways. He was taller. He knew better how to do things. He could write and read more easily than the year before.



As he was going to sleep, the night before his birthday celebration day, he had asked his mother,

“Do you like me more when I am big or when I am small?”

See, he had a little brother, Teddy. And he seemed so cute. Sometime he did naughty things, but just because he didn't know any better. He still had so much to learn. Tony had already learned those lessons, and sometimes would help to teach his brother things that would keep him safer.





Because Teddy was smaller and needed lots of help from Mother, sometimes Tony wondered if Mother liked to be with him the most. But that wasn't true.

Mother loved each of her boys—each in their own special way: Ned, Tony and Teddy.

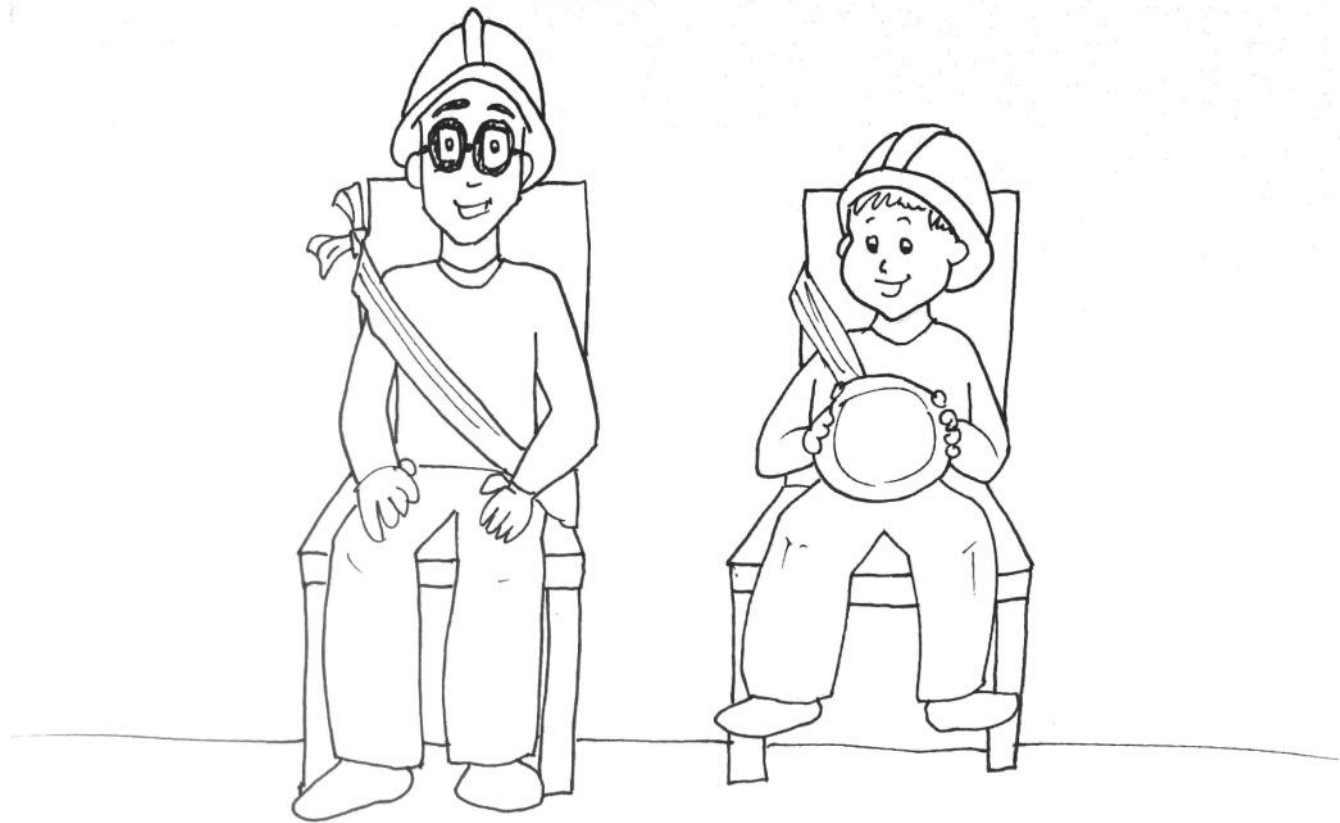
Tony was wondering that if he got older and bigger, if that would mean he would have even less time with his mother. Perhaps if he was younger it would be better, and more special?



When he talked to his mother about his feelings, she said to him:

“I love you, Tony, just the way you are each day. If you are big, I love doing the things you can do, together with you. When you were small and didn’t know how to do much, I loved helping you and holding you. But each new age and size that you are, is special to me.”

Tony felt happy to know that.



Mother asked,

“What is something really fun that you’d like to do together, on your birthday; something that makes you feel loved and happy?”

Tony thought for a moment and then said, “I like it when we dress up and play a rescue game together.”

And so now that it was his birthday, they did that! The whole family dressed up and pretended that they were at a special rescue station with all sorts of vehicles to help anyone in any kind of situation.

It was a fun birthday game!



Afterwards they enjoyed some yummy snacks.— Things they couldn't have eaten if they were still just little babies. It was fun growing up!

“Happy Birthday, Tony!” said Daddy and Mother, together, sandwiching Tony into a warm hug. They placed a kiss on both of his cheeks at the same time, one on each side of him.

Tony smiled.



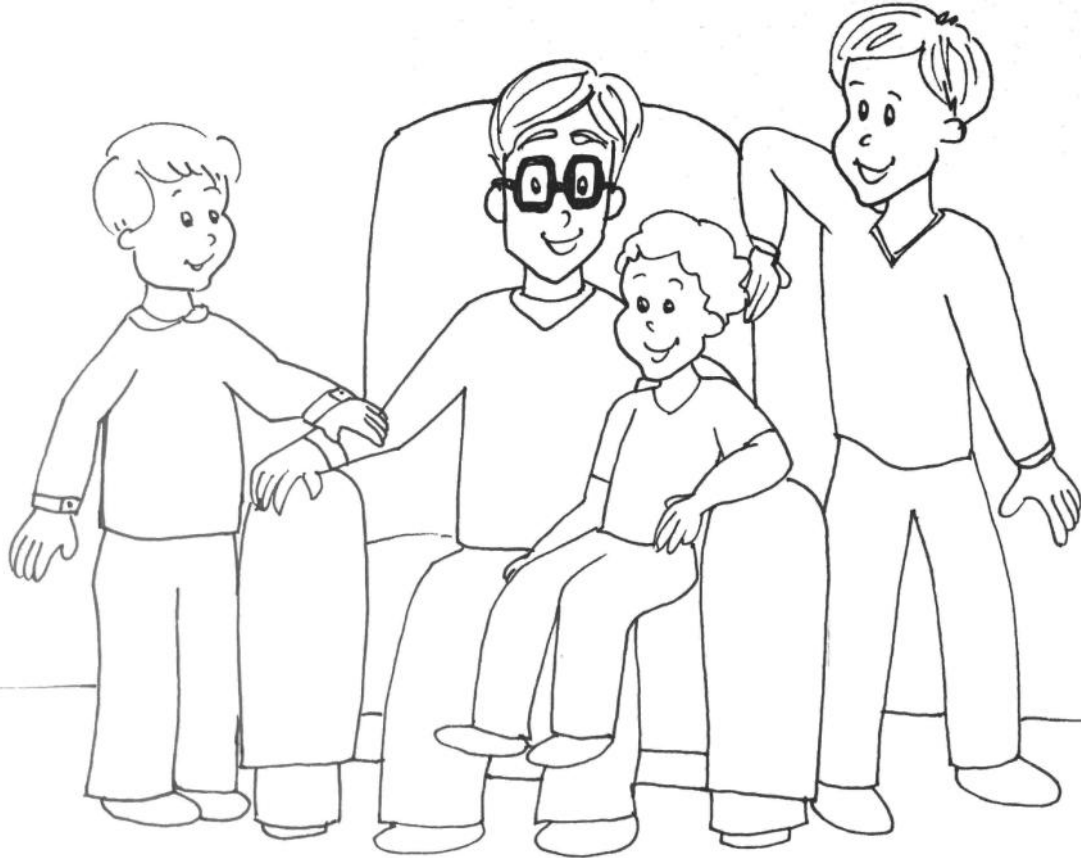


“Happy Birthday, Tony,” Teddy said and gave his brother a hug, and then gave him a freshly picked strawberry that was nearly shaped like a heart.

“Yummy Yuv!” It did look just like a bit of love, and it was very nice of him to share it with this brother.

“Happy Birthday, Tony,” Ned said, and handed his brother a hand-made gift all wrapped up. When Tony opened it he saw it was a plaque made of wood and clay on it with the inscription that said,

“Brothers forever. –Ned”



Tony was happy for this love from his family.

Daddy then sat down on the big armchair, and all the boys piled up on him as if he was some sort of delivery truck!

“Honey,” he called out to his wife, “I have a special package for you!—Actually it’s an amazing three-part gift.”

Mother came over and said it was the best gift ever! She gave her boys each a hug and said they were like birthday presents to her, every day.



Tony was glad for such a happy family that loved him and cared for him. That was the best gift he could have on this special day. Everyone sang him a special birthday song, and told him all the things they liked about him.

Tony realized how special he was to his parents, and to his brothers. And he realized that it sure was better to have brothers than to be all alone. They could have a lot more fun that way.

It might mean they'd need to share their parents' time more, but then they could enjoy friendship with one another, also.



If their parents were busy, there was always someone around to be with. He saw that part of growing up was learning more about love and giving.

The kinder someone acted, and the more they were willing to share the people and things that were special to them, the more mature and older they seemed.

Tony wanted to keep growing up right, by being kind and sharing with his brothers in his next new year ahead.

