

## The New Playhouse

Nancy was to have a party and it was to be in her new playhouse that her dad had built for her. Her four best friends were coming to the party. Mother baked cookies in the shape of rabbits, chickens, eggs and even ducks. Nancy was going to serve everyone lemonade that she helped to make. It was going to be so much fun. When her mother finished the baking and was putting the cookies out on racks to cool, she looked out the kitchen window. Peeking into the playhouse window was Ellen, a little girl who lived a couple of houses down the street from Nancy.



Mother called to Nancy to come into the kitchen. "I just saw Ellen outside looking into your playhouse," said Mother. "Don't you want to ask her to come to the party?" "No, Mother," said Nancy, "We don't want Ellen to come because she is no fun to play with, and she also takes things that aren't hers."

"But the real Ellen is very nice," Mother explained. "She is God's child, just as you are. In Christian Science, we learn to un-see the unreal, or what is not true, by seeing the real. The real Ellen is good, and she is honest. And we want to know only what is true about Ellen. The Bible says that God made man in His own image; that God saw everything that He had made, and it was very good. So the real Ellen is a loving child and a good friend. This is the truth about her."

Mother then asked Nancy if she remembered the commandment that she had learned the past week in Sunday school. Nancy said that it was the ninth commandment and it said, "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor." She also said that the teacher told them that to obey this rule, they needed to see the real man. If they said evil things about others, they were not obeying it. If they saw others as God's good children, then they would be obeying it. Mother liked Nancy's answer. She said that maybe Nancy might like to go out and sit in her new playhouse and think about what she should do about Ellen.

Nancy went into her playhouse and sat down. She thought about how kind and loving God was and how all his children are kind and loving, too. She thought about herself and all her friends, and how they were all God's kind, loving children. That must include Ellen because God was also her Father-Mother. She immediately jumped up and went down the street to Ellen's house to invite her to the party.

Soon, it was time for the party. Nancy's four friends, plus Ellen, arrived on time and went out to the playhouse to take their places at the table and chairs. The cookies and the lemonade were so good and the new playhouse was a great place to play many things. Everyone had such a wonderful time, especially Ellen, who was so thankful that she had been included.

Nancy was also thankful that she had learned about the ninth commandment and how it tells us not to see others as anything but God's perfect creation.

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*S&H 475: "Man is Spiritual and perfect; and because he is spiritual and perfect, he must be so understood in Christian Science. Man is idea, the image of love."*