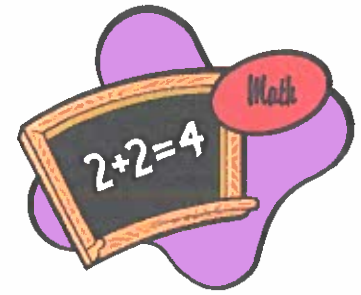


A Puzzle to Be Solved



One day, Daniel and his mother planned to visit Joel and his mother Hannah in a city that was near to where they lived. Daniel was so excited and couldn't wait to go because he and his Joel had such a good time playing together. However, the night before they were to leave, Daniel was not feeling well. So his mother called Joel's mother Hannah and asked her to help Daniel by knowing the truth.

Mother talked for a while on the phone then she handed it to Daniel. Hannah told him that after God had created everything that he saw that it was all very good. She also said that Christ Jesus loved little children and he healed them. She told Daniel to remember this and to expect to be healed right then. Before she hung up she told Daniel that she had a puzzle for him to solve when he came to her house the next day.

All the way to his friend's house, Daniel thought about the puzzle surprise that was waiting for him to see. When he and his mother got there, Daniel was still having problems with a bad cold. But he wanted to see the puzzle even though he wasn't feeling very well.

Daniel and Joel's mother Hannah sat down at their dining room table. He watched as a piece of paper was put out in front of him. On the paper were the numbers:

$$11 - 1 = 10$$

$$2 + 2 = 5$$

$$5 + 3 = \underline{8}$$
$$23$$

Then Hannah asked him to look over the numbers and see if the answers were correct. Daniel looked at the numbers and said, "No, $2 + 2$ isn't 5." "That's right. Now what do you do with the 5," asked Hannah? "Cross it off or erase it," said Daniel.

"Then what do you do next?" asked Hannah. "Put in a 4," said Daniel. He was feeling pretty good now because he thought he was solving the puzzle. "Now, what else do you need to do?" asked Hannah. Peter looked at the problem. He saw that he needed to erase the total since it was no longer right. He erased the 23 and put in a 22.

"You have solved the problem," said Hannah, "but you haven't solved the puzzle yet. Here is the puzzle. What happened to the 5?" "It just disappeared," said Daniel, throwing his arms up in the air.

"Was it hard to get rid of the 5 and put in the right answer 4?" asked Hannah. Daniel laughed and told Hannah that all he had to do was to know the right answer and erase the wrong answer. She also told him that he needed to do the same thing with the error, the lie that was telling him that he had a cold. He needed to see the error as a lie. It was just like when the answer 5 was an error and Daniel had replaced it with the answer 4 (the truth). When he did that, the 5 just disappeared. Daniel was happy that he had solved the puzzle. He now knew that the cold was just an error that could disappear when the truth of his being, as God's perfect child, was put in its place.

Daniel and Joel had a great time playing together. By bedtime Daniel was free from the cold. He also felt good that he had solved the puzzle of the 5 that disappeared.

John 8:32 "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."