

Everybody Needs a Friend

Tommy and his family were going to live in Washington, D.C. for three months. His dad had to work there for the United States government. There would be so many neat things to visit, like the White House where the President lives and the big tall building called the Washington Monument.



Tommy was very excited because all of his family was going to fly there in an airplane. He had never flown in a jet plane before. It would be much fun flying and looking at all the things on the ground and in the sky.

In the apartment where they went to live, Tommy had his own room with a view of a park with a fountain. The new school was not far from Tommy's house, and he was able to walk there. He liked his new kindergarten teacher and he made many friends. But one day something not so special happened.

Tommy came home from kindergarten crying, covered from head to toe with mud. When Mother asked him what had happened, he said that a boy had chased him and pushed him down in the mud. When this happened again on the second day and again on the third day, Mother asked Tommy what he thought made the boy act that way. Tommy answered: "I don't know. He can't even speak English. He does it to the other boys I walk home with, too."

Mother said, "That boy is probably lonesome and wants to walk with you and the other boys." Tommy thought that what his mother had said might be true. He said that all the other kids would run away from this boy, too. Mother asked Tommy what he thought God would want him to do. Tommy said that he thought maybe God would want him to be nice to others just like he would want others to be nice to him. Mother said that was a good answer. "Then," said Mother, "what would be a nice thing that you could do for the boy tomorrow?" "I could ask him to walk home with me," said Tommy. They both decided that was a good idea.

The next day, two smiling boys stood at the door of Tommy's house. It was Tommy and the boy that had pushed him in the mud, Jean-Paul. Tommy said that he had brought Jean-Paul home to play with him. Mother said that would be fine, but Jean-Paul needed to go home first and tell his mother where he was. She wrote Tommy's name and address on a piece of paper so Jean-Paul would know where to find Tommy's house.

Later the doorbell rang; it was Jean-Paul with his mother. There were tears in the Mother's eyes, and she said in a very strong accent, "Tommy is my boy's first friend in America. Thank you for being so kind to him."

The boys spent the rest of the day playing in the park across from Tommy's house, while Mother made friends with Jean-Paul's mother. The next day, the other boys that had run away before, waited for Tommy and Jean-Paul and all five of them walked home together.

Matthew 7:12 "All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them."

S&H 454: "Love inspires, illumines, designates, and leads the way."