

The Little Umbrella



This is the story of a little girl named Ruth who lived in a country far across the ocean called England. One Sunday morning, it was raining very hard and Ruth and her mother were getting ready to go to church. It was quite a long walk to get there. They had no car and there were no buses that went that way. "Now dear, you will need to put on your rain boots and your raincoat and don't forget your hat," said mother.

As Ruth and her mother began their walk, Ruth was thankful that she had boots to keep her feet dry and a lovely shiny raincoat to keep her clothes dry. She even had a small hat for her head, but it did not keep her long, curly hair from getting wet. "Mummy," Ruth said, "I would like a little umbrella of my own." "I don't think that you need an umbrella, do you?" asked her mother. "You have your boots, your raincoat, and your hat, so you are all right."

Ruth held out some of her hair and said, "Yes mummy, I do need an umbrella because my hair is getting wet." Her mother knew that it was impossible to find a child's umbrella in the shops where they lived. But before she could say anything, Ruth said, "I really do need an umbrella, Mummy, and Love will know the way. My Sunday school teacher told us to be careful when we want something. It must never be just a want because sometimes things that we want might not be very good for us to have. But, if we really need something, Love knows the way." Mother was so happy to hear that Ruth was remembering and using the truths she had learned in Sunday school.

After church, it was still raining. Ruth and her mother walked to a small restaurant that was nearby. The rain splashed off Ruth's hat right onto her curly hair. She leaned over and whispered to her mother, "Love will know the way," Then she said, "The teacher told us today that the Bible says that God knows what we need before we ask him."

As they walked into the little restaurant, the owner, Mrs. Green, recognized them and greeted them with a cheerful "good morning". Then she said to Ruth's mother, "When Ruth has finished her lunch, I would like her to come into my living room at the back of the restaurant. I have a little present for her."

After Ruth finished her lunch, she hurried to Mrs. Green's door. She knocked and heard Mrs. Green say, "Come in." "And now, Ruth," said Mrs. Green, "I am going to ask you a question. What present would you most like to have for a rainy day?" Immediately Ruth answered with, "A little umbrella."

Mrs. Green went towards a cupboard, opened the door, and there was a child's umbrella, a lovely blue-colored one on the shelf. "It is not a new one," said Mrs. Green, "but I thought that it would be just right for you!" Ruth jumped up and down and clapped her hands together. She was so happy. "Oh thank you," said Ruth, and she ran out to her mother with the little umbrella in her arms calling out to her: "See, see, Mummy! Love knew the way."

Matthew 6:8 "Your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him."

S&H 494: "Divine Love always has met and always will meet every human need."