

Story 4 The Three Brothers

This story can be done with out much preparation on the part of the children but you can have them do feeling pictures. As an example you can get tree bark, cotton balls, pieces of material of different textures and have the children make a picture that you can feel and yet be lovely to look at.

When I did this story about the third or fourth time I had my son, Philip, make up a song that maybe William would have written.

You may want to go over the fruits of the spirit which are mentioned in Galatians 5: 1-26, while you are telling the story and also discuss the works of the flesh; how they affect our lives and how we can be more blessed by showing the fruits of the spirit. This is the main theme of this story.

Chapter 1 –The Sabbath Ride

Seven years have passed since we left our friend Arthur back at the castle with his Mom and Dad, the King and Queen of Elim, and his sister and baby brother. Arthur has now grown to be about 15 years old and his cousin, Peter is 17. They are very close friends now and do almost everything together.

One morning Arthur went to the stables and noticed Peter had not arrived yet for their early morning ride together. He was busy getting his horse ready, when he noticed the supervisor of the stables working very hard cleaning the stalls. He had a very sad appearance and seemed lost in his own thoughts.

“Reuben, how are you today?” asked Arthur. He wondered why he was working so hard on the Sabbath. There were certain things that had to be done but cleaning the stalls was not one that was required on the Sabbath. Reuben kept right on working and did not seem to hear Arthur at all. Arthur walked over to Reuben and tapped him on the shoulder.

“Something bothering you today, Reuben?” questioned Arthur.

“Oh, no, just the every day problems you have with two spoiled brothers.” replied Reuben.

“I didn’t know you had any brothers?”

“Yah, not much, but they are my brothers. I promised Mom and Dad I would care for them.”

“Are they that young that you have to provide for them?”

“No, not really. They just can’t pull their own weight like I can.”

“How come? You seem so strong and keep the stables so neat and clean. The gardens look immaculate. They could get jobs here too and help you. You should ask my father. I am sure he could get jobs for them.”

“It’s not that easy, young man. You see my brothers need special help. Why don’t Peter and you ride up to my place sometime? You can then see the problem I have with those two lazy brothers. Here! Here is a map to my place. It would be a nice ride some morning. I’m sure they would enjoy the company.”

As Reuben was finishing the map, Peter walked in out of breath. “Sorry, I’m late but I had extra chores to do since Dad had to go on another journey to Mt. Mourna. Hey, that is a neat looking map! Where does it go?”

“It takes us to Reuben’s place. I know it is the Sabbath. Shall we go there today? It is Saturday and there is no required training at the palace and we won’t miss Sabbath worship until later this afternoon.”

“Sure if it is alright with Reuben. But who is there? Reuben’s Wife?”

“No, his brothers live with him.”

Reuben gave a letter of introduction to Arthur for his brothers to read when Arthur and Peter arrived at the farm. It was a beautiful morning for a ride. As they rode, Arthur explained to Peter what Reuben had said to him about his brothers.

“He really sounds disgusted with his brothers. I wonder if we could be of help to him. You know it says in the Bible we should help one another.”

“Arthur, if we were to help everyone we came across we would never have any fun.”

“I guess we won’t know until we get there.”

Arthur and Peter rode down a pretty wooded lane and out into an opening where there was a two-story house. They could see Reuben’s handy work around the place. The garden was free of weeds and the house was freshly painted. There was a barn with many horses grazing around it. Arthur remembered that Reuben had mentioned once that their family had raised horses for the Army.

As they got closer to the house, they could hear loud music and someone yelling at another person. Arthur and Peter looked at each other wondering if they should even knock on the door. Peter grabbed Arthur’s shoulder and whispered, “Let’s say a prayer before we go in there.” Arthur nodded and bowed his head. Peter said quiet prayer—

“Yahweh, give us strength and wisdom as we meet these new friends of your kingdom. Amen.”

Arthur knocked three times on the door. After the third knock, they heard a noise as someone attempted to come to the door. Arthur pulled the note out of his shirt pocket. The door opened slowly and there stood a dark haired young man a little younger than Reuben. (Reuben 30, Thomas 25, and William 27)

“Hello, who is there? What do you want?”

“Here is a note from your brother, Reuben. It will explain who we are. My name is Arthur and this is my cousin Peter.”

“Come on William, let them in. Let me see the note.” There sat a handsome blond haired young man who seemed to be a little younger than William was. However, he did not move a muscle to get up from where he was sitting.

“Hi, my name is Thomas and this is my brother William.” Thomas read the note from his brother.

“So you are the royal brats my brother talks about. Why did you want to come to this place, I’m sure you have other more interesting places to go?” said Thomas sarcastically.

“Forgive my brother, Thomas, he doesn’t mean to be rude. What is your business here?” asked William.

“We thought maybe you needed some help. Reuben seemed rather upset today as I saddled my horse,” replied Arthur.

“We don’t need your help young man. We can take care of ourselves. Reuben cares for most of our needs while he is here. When he goes to work, we just have to sit around until he comes home. You see I lost my ability to walk fighting in one of your

Father's wars three years ago. The doctors say I will never walk again. I have to stay cooped up in this house all the time. I used to be very active—climbing mountains, riding horses, chopping wood, even jumping out of airplanes. Now I have nothing to do but sit around and listen to the radio or my brother's awful music," said Thomas angrily.

"Reuben had a right to be upset. Thomas and I were fighting again, as to what music we would listen to today. You see I cannot see as I lost my eyesight in the same war. He likes that fast stuff and I like the soft quiet music. It helps me think better. Well, anyway, Reuben has enough to worry about than to tend to our silly disputes."

Peter and Arthur did not really know what to say. They were silent for a while. Then Arthur spoke. "You know, Thomas, I used to feel like you do, but one book changed my whole life."

"What book was that?" asked Thomas. You could see the curious look on his face.

"The Bible," replied Arthur with a smile.

"Aha, my mother used to make us read that every night. It never helped us very much. Look what happened to us. Mom and Dad are dead, now and we are nothing but trouble for our brother."

Arthur and Thomas talked at quite lengths about their experiences. While they talked, William and Peter went into another room. There in the middle of a cozy room was a beautiful piano.

"Wow, William, this is wonderful. Is this what I heard? You were playing this?"

"Yes, but Thomas likes me to play faster music, but I haven't played much since I lost my sight. However, I like to try to make up my own music.

"Try it William, I won't laugh and Arthur and Thomas are too busy talking to hear any way."

"Not today, Peter, maybe tomorrow. Can you come back tomorrow?"

"Yes, if you want me to, however it will be later after we do our school work and Bible reading with our families."

"Oh, that's right; Reuben has Sundays off and will be home. Come on Monday, please!" Peter agreed and smiled even though William could not see it.

The two young men finally rode away from the little farm with lots of thoughts going through their heads. They both rode quietly for a while and then Peter spoke up. "Hey, Arthur, let's go back there next Monday before we do our studies. I really need to talk to William some more."

"Sure! It is difficult to talk to Thomas with his negative attitude. They are not handicapped the way Reuben sees them. They are just feeling sorry for themselves."

Chapter 2 Healings Begin

After Arthur and Peter left the farm, William and Thomas began talking like they never had before.

"Thomas, why were you so rude to our guests?"

"I don't know, I guess I felt they were intruding. However, after they had been here a while I enjoyed the intrusion. Arthur and I have pretty much the same experiences, except his lameness was cured."

“Even though those young boys are younger than us we could learn a few things from them.”

Arthur and Peter had a quiet day to think about William and Thomas. Each one was wondering how Yahweh wanted them to minister to those angry and upset brothers.

Arthur went to see his father, King Herman. “Father now that I told you about these two brothers, what would you do?”

“Well, my son, if they were injured in one of the wars, they have the right to some help from the kingdom. Why don’t you find out how we can help? Ask them what they need to be more comfortable and productive.”

“Thank you, Father. You are truly a wonderful King.”

“No, my son, it is just part of the Constitution of our kingdom to care for the wounded men that have served our country. I am sorry that Reuben was not aware of it and could have gotten help sooner.”

“That is a wonderful law. Now I can help Reuben.”

Arthur left his father’s study with a joyful face. He saw some answers to his problems as well as for Thomas and William.

Peter also went to his father, Barrick the same night. “Father, how would you help a blind man try to see again?”

“That is a little beyond my means. I am not a doctor. Maybe you could read to him since he can’t see. Does he know how to read Braille? There even books on tape he could listen to; even the Bible is on tape now days.”

“I never thought of that. Thank you father.”

Monday morning was a beautiful day, Peter and Arthur were both up early and ready for their morning ride. Reuben had just barely gotten to the stables before the boys arrived. “My you boys look bright and cheerful this morning,” Reuben observed.

“It feels good to be doing something for someone else,” replied Arthur.

“What are you doing?” asked Reuben.

“We really don’t know at this point. But we will let you know as soon as we find out. Come on Arthur, let’s go.”

Peter and Arthur took off on their horses at a slow gallop. They knew William and Thomas were anxiously awaiting their arrival.

“Hope they didn’t say too much to Reuben this morning. I would like some friends that Reuben doesn’t know about. The last friend I had, he threw out,” said Thomas angrily.

“You must admit, he wasn’t a very good influence on you. I feel he is still around when you play that awful music. I am glad Reuben threw him out. That guy was very rude,” William added.

“You should talk. Your last friend wasn’t the cleanest thing I ever saw. Reuben had to ask him to leave many times because we couldn’t stand his smell,”

“I could always tell when he was here at least, since I couldn’t see him,” laughed William. “But let’s not argue like we were the last time the boys came.” They both agreed.

Shortly, the boys came bounding up the steps to the door. They noticed it was much quieter this time when they knocked.

“Good morning, Arthur and Peter. Come on in,” yelled William.

“How did you know we were here?” asked Peter.

“Blind men have very good hearing and sense of smell,” laughed William.
“Which sense did you use this morning –your nose or your ears,” laughed Arthur back.

All four young men chuckled at the jovial attitude of the group.

“We have some interesting things to share with you today,” stated Peter.

“May I talk with you alone Thomas?” asked Arthur.

“Sure come on it to my room,” Thomas offered. Thomas got off the couch and began to crawl to his room. Arthur stood in amazement.

“Is that how you get around?” asked Arthur.

“No, sometimes Reuben carries me or occasionally William. However, with William it is rather dangerous. He tends to walk into things if he is not told where to go,” Thomas added with a chuckle.

As they enter the room, Arthur could barely contain himself before he was telling Thomas what he had learned from his father. “Do you know what my father said? He told me the Kingdom is responsible to supply you with your needs, since you were injured in the war.”

“I can’t take charity. What would Reuben say?”

“It is part of the government’s responsibility to help those who are victims of war; especially if you fought in it. We believe in taking care of our soldiers,” Arthur confidently replied. Arthur then convinced Thomas that he could receive a wheel chair. However, Thomas did not want an electric one since he wanted to keep his arms strong.

While Thomas and Arthur were talking, Peter and William quietly went into the room where the piano was. William sat down and began to play a song he had learned in his childhood. Peter really enjoyed listening to the soft, sweet music. William had a very expressive way of playing.

“William, that was beautiful. How do you do that without seeing?”

“Well, it is like knowing the keys on a typewriter. You know where to put your hands. I have it so much better than some people who are blind. Do you know Beethoven began to go deaf at the age of 28? I do wish I could express myself in some way.”

“How could I help? The kingdom is responsible since you did fight in the last war. They will give you anything you need to become productive. What would you need to be productive and express yourself?”

“I would love to have a tape recorder so I could tape my songs so I could remember them, since I can’t see to re-read them. You could help by reading the Bible to me, too. I haven’t heard it in so long.”

“That is wonderful, as my father suggested that too. I can also get you some Bible tapes and other one you could listen to.”

The short visit was soon over but each of them was excited for the next time when they would be together.

Arthur brought Thomas a wheel chair and took him on his first outing in three years. While Arthur and Thomas were on their walk, William and Peter were doing things in the house. Peter would read to William, as William played the piano. The music and the scriptures together seemed to mend William’s sad spirits. Peter could see William brighten each time he sat down to the piano. Soon William had written a beautiful song.

When Arthur and Thomas returned from their walk in the forest and in the area of the barnyard, Arthur suggested to Thomas that they might clean up the house and prepare the evening meal. "I don't know how to cook and I can't reach the pans and the food," complained Thomas.

"I'll help you as much as I can."

Peter and William cleaned one room while Thomas and Arthur cleaned another. Before they left Arthur and Peter suggested that they read the Bible together. They started with Galatians 5:1-26. (*Children Read*)

"It seems I have more of the works of the flesh than the fruits of the spirit," observed Thomas.

"Yes, Arthur and Peter, we appreciate you coming and helping us."

Chapter 3 Return to the Big Tree

Peter and Arthur kept returning and helping William and Thomas everyday, but little did they know, the young men were becoming dependent on them for everything.

One morning, Reuben came to them. "Say, boys, I really appreciate what you are doing however you actually causing a division between William and Thomas."

"What? They seem so happy when we are there and they do not seem to argue anymore," replied Peter.

"I know things seem more pleasant at home now but there is an air of false hood there, I really can't explain it."

"What can we do? They really enjoy our help and seem to enjoy the Bible studies. What more can we do?"

"We must think of a way to make them think for themselves instead of depending on others. They will be totally useless if they cannot see they can do things on their own."

"You are right, Reuben. We will think of something," replied Peter with tears in his eyes.

As Arthur and Peter were walking their horses that morning, they talked about what to do. They went past the Big Tree; and then they knew what they had to do.

They made their plans. Peter and Arthur smiled as they knocked on the door.

"Hey, William, how would you like to go for a walk with Arthur and Thomas, today? We would like to show you something."

"I can't see what good it would be for me to go when I can't see?" asked William.

"Oh, come on, William, you haven't been outside for a long time," encouraged Thomas.

They prepared a lunch for the outings since it was a day of no lessons. William seemed uneasy at first however later he seemed to be enjoying the fresh air. Arthur and Peter helped push Thomas. As Arthur helped Thomas when he needed it, Peter began to explain to William what he was seeing as they walked. At one point, they came to a place in the forest that just blossomed with life. Birds were singing and the flowers smelled so fragrant William was in complete awe. "I wish I could capture the beauty I hear and smell so I could really see it like I use to," quandered William.

Arthur and Peter let William and Thomas enjoy the fresh air as they prepared to lay out the lunch. They noticed William feeling the trees and touching the grass. Thomas was watching from his wheel chair and seemed pleased to see William enjoying himself so much. After lunch, the young men took William and Thomas to their special

place, The Big Tree. Arthur explained to them what happened there a few years ago. William and Thomas seemed very surprised. “Peter, would you help me climb up the tree?”

“Sure, it is not that hard. I’ll tell you where to step,” encouraged Peter.

“Where is the hole you went through, Arthur?” asked Thomas. “I feel like a child again seeing this tree.”

“Come on, I’ll show you.” Arthur and Thomas disappeared. Soon Peter and William could hear Thomas and Arthur talking as the words they spoke echoed through the tree.

“This is a wonderful tree, Peter. Can we come here again?” asked William.

“Sure, maybe over the next couple of weeks you can learn to come here yourself.”

“Oh, no, that would be impossible; I would be much too afraid. You would have to come with us.”

Thomas and Arthur were enjoying the things in the old tree. “I sure wish I could climb the tree like William. I could see so much more than in this old hole.”

“Funny thing is I found I saw and understood things better in this dark old tree. I realized things about myself that had never occurred to me before.”

Peter and Arthur took William and Thomas to their special place several more times. Then one day Peter and Arthur went to the Big Tree without Thomas and William.

“So you think this will work, Arthur? I would dislike the idea of Thomas or William getting hurt.”

“They will be alright. We won’t be very far away. We will leave provisions for them just in case. Let me have that Bible and that box. Oh, get the flash light too.”

“You thought of most everything. Did you bring the herb book too?”

“Yes, I did. I even brought some sleeping mats to make it nice and comfortable.”

Chapter 4- Renewed Adventures

Meanwhile, back at the farm, Thomas was getting impatient for Arthur and Peter to arrive. William was busy practicing the piano.

“I wish they would hurry up and get here. Arthur was suppose to take me out to the shop and then for a walk so I could get some things done,” Thomas complained. He then became so angry he started to think of ways to go for his walk without Arthur.

“William, would you help me go on a walk? You have been out before and could help me over the rough spots. Let’s go by ourselves,” suggested Thomas.

“Thomas, I can’t see. What if something happens and I couldn’t find my way back home?”

“Quit worrying! We can do it. Bring a sharp knife. I need one to get some things I need,” demanded Thomas.

“Before we leave could you listen to a song I wrote, Thomas?” asked William.

“Go ahead and play it,” said Thomas crossly.

William sat down and began to play the song that he had played for Peter. The song touched Thomas in such a special way tears came to his eyes. How did William learn to play so well and where did he learn to write a song?

Thomas became quiet from his activity and sat so still William wondered if he was still in the house. “Thomas, are you there? You haven’t left me have you?”

“No, William I haven’t left you but let’s go pretty quick.” Thomas was so caught up in the song he did not know what to say to William.

William was so hurt by Thomas’s response that he thought his song must be awful. He could not see the tears in Thomas’s eyes.

They began to walk began to walk quickly through the forest breathing in the fresh air. They were gone some time before Arthur and Peter arrived at the house.

“Peter, they are gone. Where would they go without us?”

“I don’t know. I’m sure it isn’t very far. Let’s go look for them on the horses, but don’t get too close if we see them.”

Therefore, off they rode in the direction they thought they should have gone. Peter and Arthur searched for the two brothers. As they were searching, the brothers were having an interesting time. Thomas began to express his feelings to William.

“William, that song was really very beautiful. How did you learn to write like that? I didn’t know you had any training?”

“Thomas, sometimes we don’t need to go to school to learn to do things. I felt the song in my heart. Peter helped me write the song down in Braille so I could read it over and remember it. I sure wish they were with us now.”

“We are doing fine, William.”

“What are you doing every time I take you to a certain spot?”

“William, you so inspired me with your song I am going to do something for you and Reuben.”

Thomas and William had made a half circle and they found themselves at the big tree where Arthur and Peter had made their plans. The two boys, Peter and Arthur were nowhere around now. The day was almost gone. Thomas crawled into the big tree and found some provisions he had not counted on. “Wow, William you should see all the stuff in here.”

“How do you get in there? I’ve never been in there. I’ve only climbed on the tree.”

“Just follow my voice and be sure to duck your head. I’ll bet those boys were going to give us a good time today and couldn’t come and meet us as we planned. Oh, well, the things in here could deem necessary now. I don’t think we can make it back before dark now.”

“I haven’t stayed out in the open since the war. It frightens me. What if someone or something tries to hurt us? You can’t run and I can’t see. What a fine pair we are!”

“Awe, this will be fun William, don’t be so silly and Remember Psalm 91. Nothing is going to hurt us in this old tree. There is plenty of room for both of us.”

“Alright, but what will Reuben think when we are not there at home?”

“He will probably be relieved. He can relax for once in all these years. He has not been very happy taking care of us. We need to start thinking of how we can help Reuben, instead of being so demanding on him and his time.”

“I don’t understand you. All of a sudden, you are different. You seem so confident and sure of yourself, why the change?”

“William, I’ve noticed that there are Bible verses all over this tree. It lists the fruits of the Spirit on the outside of the tree; I saw them as we were walking up. Then on the inside of the tree, as I use this flashlight, I can see the works of the flesh. Sometimes

we show the fruits but down deep inside we still have those bad works of the flesh inside of us.”

“I understand. Sometimes it is so hard being blind. I wish I had lost my legs instead of my eyesight.”

“No, my brother, I envy you your legs. Please don’t wish away your legs.”

The young men spent the night in the wonderful old tree knowing this was the turning point in their lives. They made a pact to be of service to one another; one being the eyes and the other being the legs. They realized each had a special talent given by Elohim.

When Peter and Arthur finally tracked William and Thomas back to the Big Tree, they saw two different young men.

Reuben had come searching for his brothers with Arthur and Peter. They knew by the sight of the wheel chair that William and Thomas were there that night, but they decided to let them sleep in the old tree and let them find their own way back the next morning.

Reuben, being the big brother, decided to meet them half way. When they saw him, they welcomed him with a warm greeting. “Reuben, we are sorry we have been such a burden to you. We promise to start helping more and getting jobs of our own. We see we have been useless citizens too long and now we are ready to contribute our part to the Kingdom.”

“That’s okay. I know you cannot be of much help. Let’s just go home.”

Reuben did not see the disappointment on their faces himself that their enthusiasm would soon die away. His heart was not touched with their kindness or their understanding. What could they do now?

Peter and Arthur watched in amazement how Reuben just took over the two men as if they were children.

The following day Peter and Arthur returned to the brothers’ house but found William and Thomas just as sad as the first day they had met them.

“We really did learn a lot from the scriptures and the challenge of fending for ourselves all night. What else can we do to prove our sincerity to Reuben?” asked Thomas.

Arthur, Peter and Thomas were sitting contemplating what to do next, when they heard a yell from the back bedroom. William had just opened the window to feel the fresh breeze, but he was suddenly engulfed in smoke coming from the barn where the horses were still locked in from the night before.

William knew the farm pretty well since Peter and Arthur had come, so he jumped out the window to help the horses escape the burning barn. He went from stall to stall releasing the horses while Thomas could only yell orders to William. Peter and Arthur were throwing water on the hot spots. Thomas saw William go in one more time for another horse. The barn gave a loud groan.

“William, get out of there,” yelled Thomas. Just then, old Bill came by. He was a calm old warhorse that had turned blind with old age. Thomas reached up for his mane and pulled himself on to his back. He could see his brother in the shadow of the fire. He could see that he was trapped. He dug his heels into old Bill and said “Forward”. Old Bill stepped up his step and walked into the blazing fire. Thomas leaned over and picked up William with his strong arms.

Thomas kicked Old Bill as hard as he could and he shot out of the barn just before it would have collapsed. Arthur and Peter did not know what happened until they saw Thomas and William sitting on top of the same old horse.

“You save my life Thomas.”

“No, you showed me I am not a legless man after all.”

When Reuben got home that night he was very thankful his brothers were okay.

“Thank you, Arthur and Peter, for rescuing all those horses out of the barn. Those were valuable horses. Glad your horses are all right. Who discovered the fire?”

“William did Reuben,” replied Arthur.

“What! He can’t see!” exclaimed Reuben.

“He smelled and felt the fire. He was the one who rescued most of the horses. And Thomas rescued him just before the barn would have fallen on him,” smiled Arthur.

“How can that be? Thomas can’t even walk and his wheel chair won’t go into the barn!”

“He rode on Old Bill. Because he was blind he didn’t seem to mind the heat or the fire,” continued Peter.

“He’s an old war horse and goes anywhere on command and Thomas knew that,” stated Arthur.

“Wow, that’s how he saved William?” exclaimed Reuben.

“That’s right, Reuben. We have seen today that Elohim can still use us even though we seem useless to others,” explained William.

Reuben had a lesson to learn too. He learned not to underestimate the power of our Father. Reuben confessed to his brothers how anger had been stored up in his heart.

The Kingdom had a special time of building a new barn for Reuben, Thomas and William. While the barn was being built, William played his song and Thomas presented some of his artwork he had created for William and Reuben. Reuben was amazed at his brothers and the talents they had. William could feel each picture as Thomas explained the picture. They were also beautiful to look at.

Through this adventure, Peter and Arthur learned the lesson of knowing the fruits of the Spirit and the works of the flesh. As they saw the changing in others, they also had changes in themselves.

The Kingdom needed some spiritual renewal and this story helped the kingdom to be more secure and unified in Yahweh’s word.

What fruits of the spirit do you need to work on in your life? Read them over again tonight before you go to sleep and pray that Yahweh will help you attain them.