

TAYLOR'S POND

"I'm sooooo bored," Jeremy said sighing. "I don't think I can stand another day like this. It is so hot."

"Hey, I know, let's go swimming in Taylor's pond!" said Stella.

"I don't know; we better not. Your grandma said to stay away from that pond, and there's a big 'NO TRESPASSING - FISHING OR SWIMMING' sign right there by the water," said Jeremy. "And besides, that would be disobeying your grandma."

"Oh, come on, be adventurous. We aren't going to be fishing and we can who cares about some old sign? We can pretend we didn't see it or that we can't read. Besides, Grandma won't know; she's upstairs taking a nap. We'll be there and back before she wakes up. We'll be really quiet; no one will ever know," said Stella.

"I don't think we should," said Jeremy. "That sign was put there for a reason."

"Look, that sign isn't for us. It's for people who don't live around here, that's all. I'm going whether you go or not," Stella said huffing as she ran out the door.

Taylor's Pond was just down the road from Stella's house. She had been dying to go swimming all summer, ever since she arrived at Grandma's house for her summer vacation. The pond was lined with beautiful pink flowering bushes,

purple wild flowers and gigantic evergreen trees and there were woods right next to it. Sometimes, you could see deer wander out of the woods for a cool drink of water. If you didn't live nearby you would never know it was there.

"Wow, it's a really big pond," said Jeremy hesitantly as they climbed through the bushes.

"Isn't it wonderful?" cried Stella. "Come on, let's jump in."

"You go ahead. I'll just sit here by the tree and watch you," said Jeremy.

"Boy, you are such an old fuddy-duddy," said Stella as she jumped into the pond and started splashing around. After a few minutes, she cried, "Hey, Jeremy, the water's great, come on in."

But Jeremy was no where to be found. Stella climbed out of the water and began looking around.

"Come on, Jeremy. Where are you? This isn't funny!"

After searching for a few minutes, and still not finding him, Stella was getting really worried. She finally decided she needed to get some help.

"Grandma, Grandma," cried Stella as she ran into the house. "Jeremy's missing, I can't find him!"

"What?" said Grandma frantically. "Where did you see him last?"

"Taylor's Pond. When I jumped in the water Jeremy was sitting under a tree. I was just swimming around and when I looked back on the bank, he was gone!"

"Oh, my, let's call for help and then go see if we can find him. I hope he hasn't drowned," exclaimed Grandma.

“What?” cried Stella.

“Don’t you know? Jeremy can’t swim,” said Grandma.

“He never told me that!” exclaimed Stella. “Hurry, we’ve got to find him!”

Stella and her grandma ran back to the pond just as the police and fire department arrived. Everyone was calling Jeremy’s name and looking for him.

“I found him!” cried a police officer as he and Jeremy walked out of the woods.

“Oh, Jeremy, where were you?” said Stella as she raced toward her best friend. “I thought something horrible happened when I couldn’t find you.”

“Naaaaw, I’m okay. I just went into the woods to explore,” he said.

“Well, why didn’t you tell me you were going into the woods?” Stella said.

“I was embarrassed because I can’t swim. That’s why I didn’t want to go swimming with you,” he said.

“Well, I know that now. My grandma told me.....” Her voice trailed off as she looked at her grandma.

“Stella, I think we need to have a talk,” stated Grandma. “There’s a reason I told you to stay away from Taylor’s Pond. Even if Jeremy could swim, something terrible could have happened to either one of you.”

“I know,” said Stella, “but it was so hot and we were bored.”

“I understand that, but you deliberately disobeyed me Stella. There are rules for children and grandchildren. They are there for your safety and the safety of others. How would you have felt if something had happened to Jeremy? It would be a terrible feeling to have to live with something happening

to you or your best friend just because you disobeyed. There are rules in life that we must follow. We may not understand them or even think they are for us. Luckily, nothing happened to you or Jeremy this time. But you might not be so lucky next time. I think we need to go home so you can think about what you have done. You know, I have some extra “chores” that might help you think about being disobedient in the future. It may take you a week or so to get them done but I know you can do it,” admonished Grandma.

“I know. I’m so sorry.” Stella sighed. “I won’t ever disobey you again, Grandma.”

Author Notes

Ephesians 6:1-3 says: “Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honor thy father and mother, which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee and thou mayest live long on the earth.”

Children do not automatically know what obedience is. They want what they want and they do what they want to do if allowed. This is where we as parents have the obligation and responsibility to teach the children obedience. Some children are taught obedience because it is the “right thing to do” but they never learn what “thus sayeth the Lord.” As Christian teachers in Sunday Schools, youth groups, etc., it is OUR responsibility to lovingly teach them and help them understand the love of God, His ways and the many blessings He has in store if we only obey his Word!

May the Lord Bless You,

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