

BAPTIST FEATURES

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CHILDREN'S PAGE
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A BIBLE FOR MARTY By Grayce Krogh Boller

Peter sat in Sunday school, reading his Bible while he waited for the other boys and girls to come in. It was quiet except for the ticking of the old clock on the wall. After a while, the stillness was broken by the scuff of feet. Pete looked up and saw a new boy coming to sit beside him.

"Hi," Peter smiled, and then went back to his reading.

Marty sat down beside him. After a while, Pete noticed Mart leaning over, trying to read across Pete's shoulder.

"That's queer," Peter thought. "Why doesn't he read his own Bible?"

More and more boys and girls were coming into the room now. Peter looked around. He saw that Marty had not brought a Bible with him today. He noticed that Mart's shoes were scuffed and his coat was worn.

"Want to read my Bible a while?" Pete asked kindly. "We'll begin in a few minutes."

"You mean I can?" Mart cried eagerly, taking the Bible with careful hands.

When Peter saw how pleased Marty was to read the Bible even for a few minutes, he felt ashamed that he had minded Mart trying to read across his shoulder.

Then Pete forgot about Marty, thinking of the football he would be able to get next week. He had saved for it out of his allowance for months. Now he had enough.

Mrs. Falcon, the Sunday school teacher, began the meeting then. Peter sang the opening hymn good and loud and with enthusiasm. He paid attention when the Scriptures were read. He dug into his football money to give a good offering, too.

"Didn't you bring your Bible today?" he asked Mart when Sunday school was over.

"I don't have a Bible," Marty told him. "But I'll get one some day. Maybe by next week."

Pete nodded, wondering if this new boy would be in his class at grade school. Even if his clothes were shabby, he was clean and Peter liked him.

"Hope I see you next Sunday," he called to Marty as they ran off in different directions.

The next Sunday Mart was there at Sunday school even before Peter arrived. Marty was sitting in the front seat. In his hand he held several pages of a Bible. He was reading them with so much interest, he did not hear Peter come in.

"Hi," Peter grinned. "What is that?"

"My Bible," Mart's voice was so proud, it hurt Pete to hear it. "At least, not a whole Bible, but some of it. I found it in a trash can. Couldn't find the rest of it, though. I've been reading it all week."

Peter could not answer. There was a lump in his throat. Marty certainly did want a Bible!

"If I'd gotten my football, I'd ask him to play," Peter decided. "But I have to wait until next week, since I gave some of my football money for the offering last week."

Just the same, thoughts of Marty and the Bible pushed thoughts of the football right out of Peter's head. Anyone who wanted a Bible that much ought to have one, he thought.

The next Sunday when Peter went to Sunday school, he carried a gift wrapped in white tissue paper. He laid it on the chair where Marty always sat.

"It's for you," he told his friend as soon as the boy came in. "Open it, quick!"

"A Bible!" Mart's eyes sparkled with joy. "For me?"

"Sure, for you," Peter beamed, knowing that he would get a football some day but that no football would ever give him the gladness that filled his heart right now.

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CAVES

By Gladys Cleone Carpenter

Caves seem so mysterious that we are always eager to read about them. They occur mostly in regions where there is limestone. Many of them have subterranean streams.

The Mammoth Cave of Kentucky has more than fifty miles of passage ways.

Some forms of life that dwell in dark caves are blind.

Caves make ideal homes for bats. And many animals use them for hibernation.

Caves are mentioned a number of times in the Bible. Some are spoken of as burial places. They were also used as hiding places. We are told in "Joshua" that five kings were hidden in a cave. And in "Samuel" that David hid in one. Then there are accounts of them being used as strongholds in time of wars. One of the most interesting accounts is the story of Jesus and Lazarus.

We often think of hidden treasure in connection with caves. Our greatest treasure is the Bible. Recently we've been hearing of the finding of scrolls in the caves of the Dead Sea. Some of the scrolls are badly damaged. But there is one complete copy of "Isaiah" one of the most beautiful books in the Bible. The scrolls may prove to be the greatest treasure ever found in caves.

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WHY DO WE COLLECT THINGS?

By Mrs. Tom Carter

Do you have a collection of marbles, stamps, or bottles? Many people "collect" various objects as a hobby, and some of these collections are very valuable.

Men have been collecting things since the world began. Cliff-dwellers collected food for survival. Later, they collected individuals for company and protection. Finally, men began to collect objects, such as bright stones, shells, coral and ivory in order to influence their neighbors with their possessions.

The collective instinct is everywhere! Nations and kings have big collections. Birds collect tree caches of food. Squirrels collect nuts. Rats and mice are big collectors. Leopards collect food and store it on tree branches. Dogs collect bones.

Today, people collect things for many reasons. Many rich men collect rare and beautiful objects of antiquity, history, and research that the world might study and benefit from such collections. Others collect for personal reasons.

Collecting always does something to the character of the collector. It can make one generous, or selfishly concerned with possessions: "Take heed, and beware of covetousness; for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth." Luke 12:15.

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