

BAPTIST FEATURES

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GOD'S WONDERFUL WORLD (with mat #1)

Trails were very important to early-day Indian scouts and pioneers!

The thirsty deer, following the wind-scent of stream and river -- making its own trail through thickets, woods and mysterious canyons, never knew that Indians and white men would someday build wigwams and canoes, giant skyscrapers, schools and churches where their small hoofs pressed the grass into a visible trail!

The deer trail oftentimes meant life to settlers and Indians for it always led to fresh water! Indian boys and pioneer lads were taught early to distinguish between the deer trail and the endless pack-rat trails which led to debris and destruction.

Along the deer trails, Indian treaties and council meetings were held. Later, millions of head of cattle were driven over these same trails to be followed by caravans of freight wagons of salt, fur, and gold.

Watering spots and campsites along these trails became what are known today as the main streets of our towns and cities. Sante Fe, New Mexico; Topeka, Kansas, and the cities along the Chisholm Trail are examples.

There are many trails in life. We need to learn early (as did the young Indian boys and pioneer sons) the sure and safe trails to follow. Christian trails are always trustworthy! Jesus tells us, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." "Follow me," he asks.

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(Is there something about God's Wonderful World you would like to see described in this column? If so please send your suggestions to Baptist Press Syndicate, 127 N. Ninth Ave., Nashville, 3, Tenn.)

SURPRISE PARTY FOR LITA By Iris Hallman Gibson

Diane put a flowered plate at each place around the table. Daddy sat at one end, Mother at the other and she sat next to the window. Diane smiled because she liked to help Mother get lunch; it made her feel very grown-up.

Mother lifted wonderful-smelling bread from the oven, "Did you invite Lita to come over today, Diane?" she asked, placing the browned biscuits carefully on a platter.

Diane laid the last fork on the table and turned to look out the window. She could see Lita's house next door. "No, Mother," Diane answered softly. "Lita doesn't play well. I thought Jane, Debbie and I would have more fun if she isn't here."

Her mother looked thoughtful for a moment. "Since her daddy died last year Lita has had to play with her old toys. Maybe she just admires different toys so much that she doesn't realize it's wrong to snatch things when others are playing with them."

Diane's face brightened. "If Lita had a lot of new things....she might learn to play better."

Her mother smiled. "Yes, I guess she would," she answered. "But her mother has no extra money for toys, Diane."

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Carefully Diane folded each napkin and placed them under the fork. "I would like to have a surprise party for Lita," she said. "Have everybody come here....but bring the gifts to Lita."

Soon after lunch Diane hurried up the street to tell Jane and Debbie about her plan. They agreed it would be fun to have a surprise party. After Diane invited Lita to come to her house at four o'clock, the girls could hardly wait.

Before four Debbie came in with a pretty wrapped package. Diane placed it on the table with several things she had wrapped. Then Jane came in with a large pink and white package. Soon they saw Lita leaving her house.

"Here she comes!" Debbie cried. "She has on a real pretty dress."

Jane and Diane ran to the window and peeked over Debbie's shoulder. "Do you think she knows we're having a party?" Diane asked.

"If she knows we're having a party it will spoil the surprise," Jane said sadly.

"Sh-sh," Debbie said, placing a finger over her lips. "Lita's at the front door now."

When Lita came into the room the girls all sang, "Happy, Surprise Party to you.....happy Surprise Party to Lita."

For a few minutes Lita just stood in the doorway looking at the others. "Is -- is it my party?" she asked.

Diane nodded her head. "We wanted you to have some things to play with, Lita." She showed Lita to the chair of honor which had been decorated with pink and white ribbon.

Soon Diane's mother came in with lemonade. "When you're finished opening the gifts, I'll serve cookies and ice cream in the play house," she said.

Lita clapped her hands. "I love surprise parties!"

After they had finished their lemonade Diane pushed the gifts toward Lita so she could open them.

Debbie moved closer. Inside the box was a cooking set with things Lita could mix. "You liked my set, Lita....so I thought you might like one of your own," Debbie said.

Lita beamed. "I'll have a party for all of you tomorrow," she said. "And I'll serve you chocolate pudding."

Still bubbling with excitement, she opened the big package from Jane. It was a rubber doll, which she could bathe and dress with the clothes Diane gave her, and they would fit in the little, round suitcase.

Later as they sat in Diane's play house after they finished their ice cream and cookies, Lita happily played with her new toys. She held the doll out to the others.

"Would you like to play with Betsy Ann?" she asked. "We can dress her and take her for a walk."

The four girls played all afternoon, glad that Lita had toys to share with them.