

# BAPTIST FEATURES

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## GOD'S WONDERFUL WORLD By Gladys C. Carpenter (with mat #5)

Two great lights, the sun and the moon, rule the oceans and cause the tides. The moon, since it is nearer the earth, has greater influence on the surface of the ocean than the sun.

It takes about six hours for the tide to rise and about the same time for it to fall. There are a few minutes in between each rise and fall when the tide is almost stationary. When a tide has risen as much as it can, we call it a high tide; when the tide has fallen as much as it can, we call it a low tide.

The rising tide permits boats to come closer to shore than they could during a falling tide. At high tide, boats can enter rivers which they could not enter at low tide. Boats that have become beached or stuck in sand or mud can often be floated free during a high tide.

During falling tides, shell-hunters try to rush ahead of each other so that they can find the best shells.

Sometimes strange wood or nuts from other lands may be found or things from shipwrecks.

Often living starfish or other shell creatures can be tossed back into the ocean so they will not die.

One marine creature found on the shores of Florida during low tide is the Portuguese Man-of-war. It is a very beautiful purplish-blue jelly fish, but dangerous for if touched it gives a bad nettle-like sting.

Like the sun and moon, the sea also is in God's hand. The writer of Proverbs reminds us that "he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment." (Prov. 8:29)

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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.)

## BOBBY'S BLESSING By Grayce Krogh Boller

Bobby came in just before bedtime. He did not slam the door as usual. He was quiet and not noisy at all. The quiet was so unusual, Mother looked up from her book.

"Did you have a good time at Art's house?" Mother asked.

"Yes, thank you, Mother," Bobby smiled.

"Did you have good supper?" Daddy asked.

"Yes, thank you, Daddy," Bobby nodded.

"I can see you remembered your manners, too," Mother approved. "But you do

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seem very quiet, son. You didn't get into any mischief, did you?"

"No, Mother, I'm just thinking," Bobby explained, kissing her good-night.

The next morning, Bobby helped set the table for breakfast. He buttoned small Susy's dress when she asked. He carried in the orange juice for Mother. When they all sat down, Daddy reached for his orange juice. Bobby sat quietly, his head bowed for one quiet minute before he, too, reached for his juice.

"Bobby, are you sure everything went all right at Art's house last night?" Mother asked. "You seem different since you were there."

"Everything was fine, Mother," Bobby said earnestly.

After breakfast, Bobby went upstairs and straightened his room without being told. Then he went into the living room where Daddy was reading the paper.

Bobby whispered something to Daddy. Daddy looked up with surprised eyes.

"Well, of course," he smiled. "I never thought of it. It would be nice."

"Okay," Bobby beamed. "I'll tell Mother."

Quickly, he ran into the kitchen and pulled Mother down so he could whisper in her ear.

"Why, yes." Mother was surprised too, but glad. "That is a good idea, Bobby."

"I'll tell Susy." Bobby ran outside to whisper in Susy's ear.

"Sure," Susy smiled. "May I sometime, Bobby?"

"Of course! I'll teach you, Susy," Bobby beamed.

It was hard to wait until lunch time. "May we eat early?" Bobby begged.

"I think so," Mother laughed. "Bobby, is that why you were so quiet last night, thinking about this?"

"Yes," Bobby smiled.

At last lunch was ready. When everyone was all seated, Bobby looked at them, smiled happily and held out his hands. Mother, Daddy, Bobby, and Susy all joined hands, bowed their heads, and Bobby asked a blessing before they began to eat.

"We always had a blessing at home," Mother remarked when the blessing was over and they began to eat. "I don't know why I never thought of it for us."

"Art's family take turns saying a blessing," Bobby announced. "I like it. I'm going to teach Susy so she can take a turn."

"I think you have taught all of us something we needed to learn," Daddy nodded soberly.