

BAPTIST FEATURES

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JANEY GOES NUTTING

by Grayce Krogh Boller

Alice and Joe stopped in to see Janey every Saturday morning. Janey was lame and could not walk. She got about in a wheelchair. Alice and Joe visited her as often as they could.

"We are going nutting this afternoon," Joe smiled at Janey. "It is crisp and cold after the frost last night. The nuts will be ready to gather."

"It will be fun. Everyone is going," Alice beamed, and then the smile faded from her face as she looked at Janey.

Yes, everyone would be going, except Janey.

"You'll have fun," Janey smiled.

"We'll bring you some nuts," Joe promised, but Alice stopped him.

"No, we won't," she declared and Joe stared because Alice was the most unselfish person he knew. "We'll take Janey along, and she can gather her own nuts."

"I wish I could." Janey said trying to be cheerful.

"You can," Alice went on. "Joe and I are strong. Together, by each taking a side of your pushbar, we can push you to the woods. You can fill your sack in no time when the nuts come down. We'll take lunch and go early and spend the day."

Janey's mother agreed that she might go. Janey beamed, for this was something she had not expected.

Hurriedly, she put her sweater and jacket on, mother packed her lunch and her nut sack was ready and folded beside her. Carefully, Joe and Alice guided her chair out into the cool sunshine.

"We're meeting the others at the crossroad," Alice explained. "Janey, you can carry our sacks and lunches, too."

"I'll be the lunch wagon!" Janey laughed.

The other boys and girls were surprised and glad to see Janey going nutting with them. Each took turns pushing the wheelchair across the meadow and up to the woods. When they got there, Alice parked the chair in a clear space under a nut tree.

Joe threw sticks up to bring the nuts down. Janey spread her nut sack open on her lap, and when the nuts came down, many of them landed in her sack. Some fell into the corners of her chair and she added them to her sack. The nuts falling on her head did not hurt her, for she wore a thickly knitted cap.

"How happy they sound, plopping down!" Janey laughed, as all the boys and girls scrambled around gathering the nuts.

One boy climbed into the tree and shook it so more nuts pelted down. Now and then Alice came by and dropped a handful of her nuts into Janey's sack.

When they had all the nuts they wanted from one tree Alice pushed the chair to another one. The dry leaves crunched underfoot. The squirrels scolded when they saw their nuts being gathered, but the boys and girls always left a big pile of nuts at the foot of each tree. After that, their squirrel friends stopped scolding.

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"It's time for lunch," Joe looked at the sun high in the sky. "Let's all sit in a circle and I'll say the blessing."

Joe thanked God for the good food. He thanked Him for the sunny, pleasant day. He thanked Him for the nuts and the fun they were having. Then everyone began to eat.

After lunch, they went on to other trees. Sacks were getting heavy now. Legs were getting tired.

"We have enough, I think," Joe said at last.

"Everyone has a full sack," Janey beamed. "Look at mine! Everyone has been putting handfuls of nuts into it for me, besides all those I gathered. Thank you for bringing me along!"

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GOD'S WONDROUS WORLD

By Thelma C. Carter
Illustration No. 3 - dragon fly

A small boy once described insects like this: "Insects are such funny things! They have 6 legs and lots of sting! They don their wings of airy silk. And sing and sting--and sting and sing!"

This boy knew a great deal about the insect world. Insects are funny-looking, with their bulging eyes, protruding mouths, waving antennae, and long legs!

All insects have 6 legs which help them in crawling, imprisoning other insects for food--home-building, and raising their young.

Some insects sing--like the crickets and katydids. All insects either sting, bite, suck or chew their victims--whether they be plants, trees, animals, or other insects.

Insects do "don their wings of airy silk." And, for a purpose! When butterflies, mosquitoes, flies, moths, bees and wasps develop wings, they are adults, ready to travel in search of new homes and food.

The wings of insects aid in keeping them air-borne. And they, like helicopters, are able to hover over ponds, lakes, or debris areas where they can dart down and catch their prey.

Nature requires all of her natural world to use skill, strategy, and hard work in order to survive! Our Bible tells us in Proverbs 30:25, "The ants . . . prepare their meat in the summer." Again in Proverbs 6:6 it instructs, "Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise."

The skill of dragon flies as they shed their worm-like skins and begin at once to pump air into their wing-veins is amazing! Imagine the anxious moments just before their wings are inflated and expanded and they are able to attempt their first adult take-off!

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