

Benefits of Encouragement Story

Narrator: “Mr. Stone, the Sunday school teacher, made an announcement to all of the first, second, and third graders. He said:

Mr. Stone: “Next Saturday, meet at the church at 10:00am. We will go to the Grand Ridge Nursing Home and sing for the senior residents there. Afterwards, we will go to the park for a picnic.”



Sophie: Said to herself, “Oh, no, I don’t want to go to the nursing home. I don’t want to see a bunch of old people in wheelchairs and stuff. Besides, it smells funny in there. I would rather be watching cartoons on Saturday morning.”

Narrator: When Saturday morning came, Sophie’s mother woke her up and said:

Mom: “Better get up, Sophie, so you won’t be late getting to the church.”

Sophie: “Oh, Mom, do I have to? I don’t want to spend my Saturday morning singing to old people. Besides, I want to watch cartoons.”

Mom: “You have to learn to do kind things and encourage other people. When you do you will feel even happier than had you just stayed home and watched TV. Watching cartoons might make you happy for a short time, but your visit will make someone else happy for a long time. It is the right thing to do.”

Narrator: So Sophie went with the others to the nursing home. When they went inside, they found an audience in wheelchairs ready for a concert. Mr. Stone led the children in singing some hymns. Sophie noticed how many of the ladies and men smiled and sang along with them.

Mr. Stone asked if anyone had a request. An elderly lady, whose name was Dori, asked them to sing “Amazing Grace”. It was her favorite. Sophie saw her tapping her fingers on her wheelchair as she sang. Sophie realized how happy their singing had made her.

After singing was over, Mr. Stone led the children to a room where a lady couldn’t get out of bed, Mrs. Martin. Sophie thought how lonely she must be, never getting to go anywhere. She walked over to her bed and said:

Sophie: “Hi, How are you today?”

Mrs. Martin: “Pretty good.”



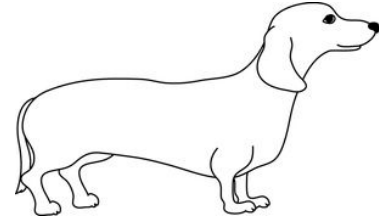
Narrator: “She said with a smile. Then she asked Sophie:

Mrs. Martin: “What is your name?”

Sophie: “I’m Sophie.”

Mrs. Martin: “Do you have a dog at home, Sophie?”

Sophie: “Yes, I do. A dachshund named Jolly.”



Mrs. Martin: “Oh, a weenie dog! They are so fun. You see, I used to train dogs. I owned a kennel, and people would bring their dogs to me to train them. If you check with the director, I am sure he would let you bring Jolly to see me. I will show you how to teach him some tricks. Would you like that?”

Sophie: “Yes, Mrs. Martin. That would be cool!”

Narrator: “Mr. Stone asked the children to sing a song for Mrs. Martin and then they left to go to the park. Sophie had a good feeling inside. She knew that she had done a kind thing by encouraging the people at the nursing home. She saw how happy it made them, and it made her happy too! She also knew that Mrs. Martin was glad that they had come to visit her, but Sophie hadn’t expected her to do something nice for Sophie! Sophie and Jolly did go and see Mrs. Martin. Jolly learned two new tricks! And Sophie realized cartoons weren’t as enjoyable as encouraging others.