

Don't Forget to Say, "Thank You!"

Matthew and Bella were twins and they were so excited about going to Grandpa and Grandma's for their birthday party over the weekend even though their birthday wasn't for another two days. Their aunts and uncles and cousins were going as well. Grandma would cook a big meal with their favorite dessert with chocolate icing.

When they got there, Grandpa built a big fire in the fireplace because it was a cold, windy day. Matthew and Bella saw the gifts that everyone was going to share with them later on. They noticed some that said "To Bella, From Grandma and Grandpa". Matthew shook one of his presents and it rattled. What could it be? There were also presents from their cousins, aunts and uncles.

It seemed like it would never be time to open presents. Finally, after dinner, when all the dishes were washed, it was time! Bella opened her big gift first. It was a playhouse that looked like a castle! She squealed and opened every door and window.

Matthew opened his gift next. It was a remote-control car, just like he had hoped for. He went to the kitchen and tried it out. He made it go back and forth, under chairs and around in circles. What a great present it was! Then they opened their other gifts. They got skates, board games, books, and more. They played with their toys with their cousins until it was time to go home.

When they got home, Mom and Dad gathered up all their gifts and put them away in the closet. "What are you doing?" asked Matthew and Bella.

"You two got a lot of nice gifts today, but you forgot to say "thank you." You were so busy playing with your new things or opening other gifts, that you never stopped to tell Grandma and Grandpa "thank you" for your playhouse and car. You didn't thank your aunts and uncles and cousins for the gifts they gave you either. God wants you to say "thank you" when someone does something nice for you or gives you something." Then Dad said, "We will keep your new toys in the closet until you finish writing thank-you notes to every person who gave you a gift."

Matthew and Bella felt bad. They hadn't realized that they had forgotten to say "thank you." They went upstairs and wrote their notes. Then they felt better. The next day, Mom and Dad gave them their gifts back.

Two days later Mom and Dad gave them the birthday gifts from them. Matthew and Bella opened their gifts. This time, they hugged their parents and thanked them for each gift. Mom and Dad were happy that they remembered to say thank you. Matthew and Bella were thankful for the wonderful things they received and for the family that gave them.