

James

James Blake was the naughtiest boy in the class. He was always getting others into trouble. He spent a lot of his time sitting on the steps outside the principal's office. James didn't have many friends. He thought that by doing naughty things, everyone would notice him, but it didn't really help people to like him. He was always causing trouble. One day he deliberately wrecked a model that some of the boys were making. That started a big fight.

James's teacher didn't know what to do about James. James's Mum just didn't know what to do either. It would soon be school holidays, so it was decided that James would go and spend two weeks with Grandma and Grandpa.

James liked staying with Grandma and Grandpa. Grandpa was his special friend. James loved to make things with Grandpa in the workshop. Grandpa was really good at making things, and he would show James how to use some of his woodworking tools.

"How would you like to make a little sailing ship?" asked Grandpa.
"That would be great!" said James excitedly.

Day after day the two worked together in the workshop.
"What are you two making?" asked Grandma.
"It's a surprise," said James.

They worked in the little ship for three whole days. James sanded the base of the little ship until it was very smooth. Then Grandpa drilled some holes for the masts. James put some glue in the holes and placed the two masts carefully in the holes.
"You can make the sails now," said Grandpa.
"I'm going to make a flag too," said James.

James worked carefully as Grandpa watched.
"I wish I didn't have to go to school," said James.
"Why?" asked Grandpa.
"Nobody likes me...and I'm always getting into trouble," James replied. "I don't really like doing the things I do, but I just can't help it."

"Well there is Someone who loves you very much, James. Not just Grandma and I. Not just your Mum and Dad. Jesus loves you too you know. He can be your best friend...and He can help you be a good friend to others too. If you want Jesus to be your friend you must ask Him to forgive you for the wrong things you've done. Then ask Him to come and be your special friend. He'll help you to do the things that are right. Maybe if you really try to be a good friend to others, they will want to be your friend too."

James knew that Grandpa was right. After the holidays, he went back to school quite a different person. James couldn't wait to show his little sailing ship. Everyone looked at in amazement.

"It's wonderful!" said his teacher. "Your Grandpa must be a really special friend."

"Yes, he is," said James with a big smile.

James tried hard to be a good friend to others that term. The other children started to be friends with him too. James was happy about that, but most of all he was happy about his most special friend, Jesus.

