

A Kingdom Kid Story

It's Your Turn



Becky Stayton

Parents or Teachers:

- These stories are best when read with an adult. They contain real-life situations and solutions that could be used with more discussion, scripture memory, activities, role-playing, and application
- Best for ages 8-12
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It's Your Turn

Chapter One - Blessed

Willow sat on the side of the playground and just watched the other kids playing. A tear slid down her cheek as she watched the others laughing and running. Her straight brown hair blew onto her face and stuck there with the tears.

Thoughts kept coming and tears kept trickling. She was remembering the accident a couple of years ago that changed her life. Ever since then, her legs didn't work the way they used to. She couldn't run and jump like the other kids. No one wanted her when teams were picked. No one wanted her at all, it felt like.



She was having a nice little pity party for one when a girl named Tena bounced up to her, with her red hair flying in all directions.

“Hi, Willow! Whatcha’ doing? You want to play?” Tena asked.

Willow just stared at her. Couldn't she see Willow was not in a playing mood? Hadn't she seen Willow try to run? Willow didn't answer. She just looked down at her feet.

Tena sat down beside her and started talking and talking. Willow wondered if the girl ever stopped to take a breath. The only thing that stopped Tena was when recess was over.



Whew! Glad that's over! thought Willow.

From then on, whenever Willow sat out at recess, Tena would come over and talk and talk. It wasn't long before Willow started talking and laughing, too. She began to look forward to those times with Tena.

One day, Tena told her a story about herself.

“I was born too early. I was a preemie and had to stay in the hospital for a long time. Of course, I don’t remember any of this, but my parents told me. When I finally got to come home, I was way behind where other babies were at my age. I had trouble learning to walk and talk. I had trouble with almost everything.”

Willow was amazed. How could this girl - with so much life bubbling out of her - have had trouble with anything?

Tena went on:

“When I was ready for pre-school, I still couldn’t talk so people could understand me. I couldn’t remember things that I was taught. Even the basic numbers, letters, and colors were really hard for me.”

“Really?” said Willow. “It looks like you got over all of that! I heard that you won the spelling bee in your class! What happened?”

Tena explained, “Well, one day I was at Sunday School. The teacher told the story about Jesus calling the little children to come to Him. She said that Jesus took each one on His knee and blessed them. I knew I had already been blessed when I was a baby, so I figured I was blessed by Jesus, too!



“Every time there was something hard for me to do, I would think about what I would say to Jesus if I could crawl up on His lap and talk to Him. I just talked to Him like that. My prayers were like I was sitting on His lap. Then something amazing happened!”

“What was it? What happened?” asked Willow.

“This is going to sound strange. I’m kind of afraid to tell you,” admitted Tena.

Willow begged, “Just tell me. Pleeese?”

Tena said, “Well, okay. The more I talked to Him, the closer I felt to Him. Then I heard Him say something to me.”

Willow was amazed, “What? He talked to you?”

Tena explained, “I didn’t really hear His voice. But I heard His thoughts in my mind. Does that make sense? I heard Him say, ‘Tena, I made you and I love you.’”

Willow just sat there with her mouth open. Then she asked, “What happened next?”

Tena continued, “Then He told me that His words in the Scriptures are true.

“So, after that, whenever I couldn’t do something, I would say, Philippians 4:13 ‘I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me!’”

Willow couldn't believe what she was hearing! “Then what happened?” She asked.

“I don’t know,” Tena admitted. “I just started thanking Jesus for everything I could think of and telling Him how much I loved Him because He loved me.

“Pretty soon, things just started getting easier. He must have sent angels to help me or something. I don’t even know. All I know is, if Jesus' words are true for me, then they're true for you. And if He loves me, I know that He loves you, too!”

Willow thought about that for a minute, and then she said, “You know, it really is a miracle that I survived the accident. I've heard lots of people say that—even the doctors. Then the doctors also said I would never walk again. But I can walk. He must have blessed me, too!”

Tena nodded her head up and down, and her curly hair bobbed up and down. “Yes! See? Hey, do you mind if I pray for you?”

Willow looked around to see if anyone was watching. “Ummm. I guess not. I mean, I guess it’s okay.”

Tena took her hand and said a short prayer, thanking God for her new friend, asking Him to watch over her, bless her, and show her how much he loved her. Then she prayed that God would help Willow to run again.

Willow felt tears start to form. This time they weren’t tears of sadness but of hope and happiness! She brushed them away as she gave Tena a little hug. “Thank you, Tena! Maybe you can tell me more about Jesus tomorrow?”

Tena bobbed her head and curls again and said, “Absolutely!”

Discussion:

Why was Willow sad?

What did Tena share with Willow?

What gave Willow hope and happiness?

Chapter Two - A New School - Diamond

Diamond was excited about a new school year and a new school. She was excited to make new friends in her third-grade class. She was excited to have a new teacher. Miss Jones was young and seemed nice.

As Diamond sat at her desk winding her long blond hair with her finger, he wondered who would be her friend.



The girl in front of her was pretty with dark curly hair. Her desk name tag said that her name was Misty. She hoped Misty would be her friend. Misty's long hair brushed up against Diamond's desk. All of a sudden Diamond reached out and gave it a pull.

"Ouch!" exclaimed Misty. She turned and looked at Diamond with a question on her face. "Why'd you do that?"

Diamond just shrugged. She didn't know why. The thought came into her mind and she did it.

As school began, she noticed more classmates that she would like to know. At recess, some girls were playing chase. She wanted to play but wasn't sure how to ask. As one of the girls ran past, Diamond stuck out her foot and gave the girl a little kick.

"Ouch!" exclaimed the girl. "Why'd you do that?" Diamond shrugged her shoulders and looked down. The girl said, "That's not nice!" and ran to catch up with her friends.

Diamond was sad. Things weren't going well. After lunch, a boy in her class dropped his pencil. It rolled near her foot. She picked it up and looked at the boy. He smiled and held out his hand for the pencil. Diamond had an idea and before she could think about it, she snapped the pencil in half and handed it back to him in two pieces.

"Hey!" he exclaimed, "Why'd you do that?"

"Jordan?" the teacher said, walking toward his desk. "What's going on?"

Jordan held out his broken pencil and pointed it at Diamond. "She broke it!"

"Diamond!" Miss Jones exclaimed, "Did you really break his pencil on purpose?"

Diamond slowly nodded.

"Why did you do that?" Miss Jones asked.

Diamond hung her head. "I don't know," she muttered. And, she didn't know why she did those things. Ideas came into her mind and before she could even think, she did them.

Misty and the girl she had kicked earlier, spoke up and told the teacher what else Diamond had done. Diamond was so ashamed. A tear slid down her face as she noticed everyone looking at her. This was not turning out to be a good day.

Miss Jones said, "OK class. Let's get back to our assignment." Then she spoke quietly but firmly to Diamond, "Diamond, this needs to stop! You need to apologize and make things right."

Diamond mumbled an apology and gave Jordan one of her good pencils.

She was determined to do better. On the way to Music class, she was tempted to trip the person in front of her in line but managed to stop herself in time.

Near the end of the day, the class was allowed to have some free reading time. Diamond noticed some girls sitting in a corner together. She wanted them to notice her and be friends with her. An idea popped into her mind and she walked toward them, took a book out of one of the girl's hands, and ran across the room.

"Hey!" the girl shouted. "What'd you do that for?"

Next thing she knew, she was being guided out into the hall by Miss Jones.

"Diamond, what is going on? Why are you doing these things?" asked Miss Jones.

"I don't know," said Diamond, staring down at the floor. "I just wanted a friend." She finally admitted.

Miss Jones bent down near Diamond and said, "I know it's hard to be in a new school, but you can't act like this. To have a friend, you need to BE a friend. Do you know what that means?"



Diamond nodded, but she wasn't sure.

The teacher said, "I want you to think about how you would want others to treat you. Then, treat them the same way. Can you do that?"

Diamond nodded again, but she wasn't sure if she could remember.

The day was almost over and somehow Diamond made it out of school and back home without another incident. Hopefully, tomorrow will be a better day.

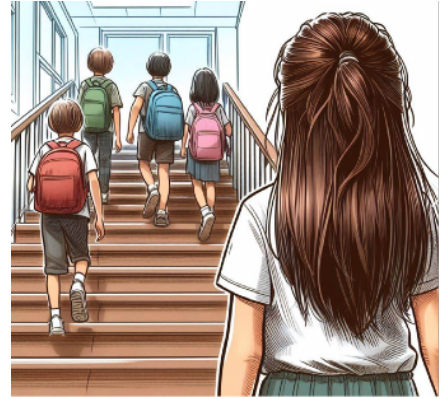
Discussion:

What was Diamond doing on her first day of school?

What did the teacher tell Diamond to do?

Chapter Three - Hard Things - Willow

Willow got off the bus and followed the line of kids into the building and up the stairs to her classroom. As she walked up the stairs, she remembered the first time she had walked up those stairs a couple of years ago. After her accident, it had been hard to get up those steps with her hurt legs and crooked feet. Now, here she was, walking up the steps like everyone else! Well, almost. It was still a little hard, but she was sure that her crooked feet weren't quite so crooked and she was getting better every day. Especially every day since she met Tena and Jesus.



As she walked into her classroom, Willow noticed that she had a new desk partner. The new girl in class, Diamond, had been moved right beside her. She didn't want to be near that girl. Diamond had been mean to EVERYONE yesterday. She was afraid of what was going to happen next.

The morning was busy and nothing bad happened. Willow hoped that what happened yesterday was just because it was Diamond's first day.

At morning recess, Willow walked over to play with Tena, her red-haired friend in another class. She could see Diamond following her. When they started swinging, Diamond played on the swing next to her. But, when Willow slowed down, Diamond bumped her swing into Willow's. Hard.

Willow glared at her and said, "Ow! Why'd you do that?" Willow got off of the swing, turned toward Tena, and motioned for her to come talk to her. She did not want Diamond to play with her anymore!

When they were alone, Willow told Tena what had just happened.

Tena said, "I saw that. I wonder why she keeps acting like that."

"I don't know, but now I'm stuck next to her in class," replied Willow.

Tena said, "That sounds hard."

“Yeah! That girl hits, and kicks, and who knows what else,” said Willow.

“I wonder if she just doesn’t know how to BE a friend,” said Tena.

“Well, that’s sure not the way to be friends!” said Willow.

“No, it’s not. But, you know what to do when things are hard,” Tena said with a grin.

Willow looked surprised, “I do? Oh...yeah,” she looked down at her crooked feet and smiled. “Yeah, I guess I do!” Willow remembered a few months ago when Tena had told her about having to do hard things. Tena had been a premie and couldn’t learn to read or talk so people could understand her. But, Tena had told her that she had an experience with Jesus and it changed everything. Jesus had told Tena that he loved her and that His words in the scriptures were true.

Because Tena had shared Jesus with her, Willow had been praying and trusting in Jesus more and more. It had made a big difference in her life. She looked up to Heaven and said, “God, there’s something hard that I have to do, but, I know you’re bigger! Can you help me be a friend to this new girl, Diamond? Can you help her know how to be a friend?”

“Good for you!” exclaimed Tena. The playground monitor began lining up the classes to go inside. Tena gave Willow a fist bump and said, “Remember, Philippians 4:13!” as she ran to get in line.

Philippians 4:13? Philippians 4:13? wondered Willow. She was still thinking about it as she sat down at her desk. Then she remembered: ***I can do all things through Christ that strengthens me!***

During art class, Willow was working on her watercolor art project. She had just decided to paint a forest with a deer. Diamond reached over and smeared blue paint in the middle of Willow’s paper. Willow froze, looking at that spot of blue. She wanted to scream, but she whispered to herself, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me!”



“Huh?” asked Diamond.

Willow had a sudden idea, so whispered, “Oooh! Yes! A lake would be good right there! Thanks, Diamond!” Willow spread the blue out and made it look more like a lake.

She looked up at the surprised Diamond and said, “Here, let me try it.” She got a brush full of yellow paint and slopped it on Diamond’s painting. Diamond’s eyes opened wide, and then, slowly, a smile spread across her face. “Oh! I know what that could be!” she said.

Mrs. Gardner, the art teacher, heard some chatter and came over to their table. She watched for a moment as the girls put spots of color on each other’s papers and created their paintings. She smiled and said, “That looks like a good project for another time, but this one is doing your own painting. Keep your brushes on your own paper, please.”

The teacher walked away to help someone else. The girls smiled at each other and kept painting their own paper until the bell rang.

Discussion:

What were the hard things Willow and Tena had to go through?

How did they get through the hard things?

Chapter Four - Lunch Time - Diamond

At lunch, Diamond was excited to see Willow sit next to her at her table. They chatted about their paintings as they ate lunch. Diamond saw Willow's cookie on her tray and wanted it. She reached out to grab it, but Willow put her hand over it just in time. Diamond pulled her hand back to her food.

"What's going on, Diamond? Why do you do stuff like that?" Willow asked.

"I don't know," muttered Diamond. "I just wanted the cookie."

"Well, I don't want to sit ..." Willow stopped herself and whispered under her breath, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Diamond looked confused. "What? What did you say?"

"Nothing. I mean...I wasn't talking to you."

Diamond looked around wondering, "Who were you talking to, then?"

"I guess to myself. I was just reminding myself of something," said Willow, removing her hand from on top of the cookie.

Diamond said, "You said that thing in art class, too. What are you saying?"

"Ummm...just something I learned to say when things are hard," she admitted as she picked up her cookie, broke it, and gave Diamond a half.

Diamond accepted half of the cookie, but said, "Sorry for...for trying to grab it. I guess I need something for when things are hard, too. Tell me what you say."

"Uhhh. Well. There's probably something else you need to hear first, then." Willow said.

"What?" asked Diamond. She saw Willow looking around and smiling and nodding at that red-haired girl, Tena.



Willow said, "You really want to know?"

"Yes!" exclaimed Diamond.

"Really?" asked Willow again.

"Yes, really!" Diamond almost shouted.

"Ok. If you want to." Willow said, "At recess, meet me by the swing!"

At recess, the three girls: Diamond, Willow, and Tena, met by the swing. They found a quiet spot to sit on the ground and talk. The girls played with the playground rocks while they chatted, pouring the little pebbles back and forth in their hands.

Diamond said, "You were going to tell me your magic words."

Tena and Willow looked surprised. "I never said they were magic," said Willow.

Diamond poured the pebbles from her hand into a little pyramid onto the ground. "Okay, but you said you'd tell me something."



Willow nudged Tena and whispered, "Tell her!"

Diamond was getting excited, "Tell me!"

Tena picked up a handful of pebbles. She poured the pebbles into Willow's hands. "YOU tell her," she said.

Willow looked at the pebbles and then up at Tena. "ME?"

Tena nodded, "Uh huh," her red curls bobbing up and down.

"Why me?" Willow asked.

"Will SOMEONE please tell me?" asked Diamond, smashing her pyramid of pebbles with the palm of her hand.

Tena smiled at Diamond, "Hang on, Diamond."

Tena turned to Willow, “I told YOU about Him, now, it’s YOUR turn.”

Diamond felt like her heart was about to explode. She knew this was going to be something good!

Willow looked down at her handful of pebbles. She poured the little pebbles back and forth in her hands. Then, she closed her eyes for a moment, opened them, took a deep breath, and said, “Diamond, do you know about Jesus?”

Discussion:

What do you think will happen next?

What would you say if you were Willow?

What would you tell Diamond about Jesus?

What scripture will you choose to help you?

Summary

Though this story is fiction, it shows that many of us have challenges to face. In those challenges, we can find answers in God’s Word and through His strength.

In their case, they chose to remind themselves of the scripture: Philippians 4:13, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” The scripture is not a magic formula on its own. It is just a way to remember where their strength comes from. It is a way to connect back to Jesus when times are tough.

In the scriptures, we can find promises and help for whatever we are facing. God’s Word is not just in the scriptures but can be brought to our minds through the Holy Spirit, as well.

It's Your Turn

Willow had some challenges and she couldn't see anything good in her life. A friendly girl named Tena bounced into her life and helped her see that hope and healing was possible. But, then, a new challenge arose.

It's Your Turn is a story about overcoming challenges and passing blessings on to others.