

Joe and Sons—A Modern Parable

Instructions: Billy and Bob should each wear a hat.

Narrator: There once was a farmer named Joe.

Joe: Howdy! (*Waves hand*)

Narrator: Now Joe has two sons, Billy...

Billy Hey! (*Removes hat to wave.*)

Narrator: And Bob.

Bob: That's me! (*Removes hat to wave.*)

Narrator: Joe has a huge amount of land and a long list of things that have to be completed before the harvest. It just so happens that Billy—

Billy: Hey!

Narrator: And Bob...

Bob: That's me!

Narrator: . . . are identical twins. They look alike and dress alike, but they have very different attitudes towards helping around the farm.

Joe: You said it; they sure do! And boy, do they make being both a father and a farmer difficult sometimes.

Narrator: Now, Billy...

Billy: Hey!

Narrator: Is a hard worker.

Billy: (*Flexes and grins*)

Narrator: He wakes up early to do his chores and even finishes early and asks for more. He—

Billy: (*Interrupting the narrator*) Yes, I am the helpful, obedient one.

Narrator: Umm, wow. (*sarcastic*) And he's so "modest" too. Then, there is Bob

Bob: That's me!

Narrator: He really likes to sleep in.

Bob: (*Yawns loudly.*)

Narrator: He likes to play video games. In fact, sometimes he spends all week behaving disobediently, choosing to do everything he wants to do except his chores.

Bob: Well, yeah... (*Grins sheepishly.*)

Narrator: One day, Farmer Joe gets injured. He desperately needs his sons' help to prepare for the harvest. So, he approaches his sons to discuss this.

Joe: (*Approaches Billy, limping*) Billy, my boy. Could you go out and plow the field today?

Billy: Of course, Dad—I promise I'll work hard until it is done. You can always count on me! I work hard and you know how helpful I've *always* been.

Narrator: As the day progresses, Billy just does not feel like doing the work he promised his father he'd do. He thinks

about all the work and he decides he isn't up for it. He does not do a single thing to prepare the field for the upcoming harvest.

Billy: *(Shrugs and walks away.)*

Narrator: You see, Billy usually obeys his father, but this time, his words were not followed by action. A very frustrated Joe limps his way over to his other son, Bob, who is still lying in bed. Joe asks him:

Joe: Son, could you go out and plow the field for me today?

Bob: *(Bob is lying on the floor in "bed" with his pillow and blanket, rolls over and covers his head with the pillow.)*
Dad, I just really can't do those chores today. I was up late playing my video games.

Narrator: Discouraged, Joe limps his way back to bed. A few hours later, Bob has a change of heart. He remembers how hard his father always works to provide for the family. He remembers that his father really needs him. With determination, Bob rises and runs for the fields. Bob works until the sun sets. He plows the entire field!

He is so proud that his usually lazy son changed into a hard worker and a doer.

(Bob waves, bows, and walks away. Billy mumbles, "whatever" and walks away too.)

Narrator: So remember kids, go and do. Honor your parents by obeying. When you do this, you are also honoring God.