

Oh Brother!

(Kevin is sitting and holding a fishing pole, patiently waiting for a bite, when Mr. Frank walks up to him.)

Mr. Frank: Hey Kevin, caught anything big?

Kevin: Nope, not yet!

Mr. Frank: How long have you been here fishing?

Kevin: Oh, I don't know. Since this morning after breakfast.

Mr. Frank: Gee, I thought you would have caught a lot by now. Anyway, it's getting dark. I think your mom is getting worried.

Kevin: Sorry Mr. Frank. Just a little longer. I promise I won't catch all the fish in your pond.

Mr. Frank: Oh no, you can stay as long as you want. Just be home by dinner.

Kevin: Thanks Mr. Frank. I will.

Mr. Frank: Hmm, you look sad. Did you have a fight with your brother again?

Kevin: Yup.

Mr. Frank: What was it about this time?

Kevin: He hates me because mom gave me this fishing pole that belonged to Dad. He doesn't like to fish. He doesn't even know how to fish, yet he wants it for himself.

Mr. Frank: I see. I thought Josh was in to baseball. Didn't your dad give his prized baseball to him before leaving for Iraq?

Kevin: Uh huh. He's mad because he lost his ball somewhere near this pond. He was playing with some friends. That was dad's gift to Josh, but now that it's lost, he wants my fishing pole.

Mr. Frank: Well Kevin, all I can say is that you two should not be fighting. It is already hard for your mom with your dad away. She needs to be able to count on the two of you to help each other out, and not fight.

Kevin: I know Mr. Frank. That's why I come here. I don't really want to fight, but it's so frustrating. Josh and his friends sometimes make fun of me because I like fishing better than sports. I wish I could play like he does, but I like it here better. Fishing is more fun, especially when I can bring my catch home to mom.

Mr. Frank: You're a good boy Kevin. Don't worry about sports, not everyone is born to kick or catch a ball. Think of it this way: your brother brings home dirty uniforms, cuts, and bruises. You bring home food.

Kevin: *(Smiling)* I remember my dad telling me that too. He knows I'm not good at sports, but that I have the patience to fish. Although some kids say it's not cool to sit for hours waiting for a bite, my dad says fishing is more peaceful and more challenging. Even when I don't catch anything, he says I learn how to wait and be patient. He says that makes it even more exciting when I catch a fish. It's like I win over the fish in a game of waiting.

Mr. Frank: Your dad is right. Patience is a virtue. It is like faith. Good things happen to those who wait patiently.

Kevin: So should I let my brother use my pole? Maybe if I do, he won't hate me so much.

Mr. Frank: Better yet, maybe if you teach him how to fish, you two might actually have fun together.

Kevin: I doubt it. He just wants my pole because it belonged to dad. If I let him use it, he might be nicer to me.

Mr. Frank: Will you make fun of him if he never catches a fish?

Kevin: No! I would just be happy to see him happy.

Mr. Frank: Good for you. Your mom will definitely be proud of you, and so will your dad when he gets back.

Kevin: Thanks Mr. Frank. I feel much better now. So is it okay to stay longer? I think I feel a real big fish coming soon!

Mr. Frank: *(Grinning)* Sure kid. Just holler if you need help bringing in your big catch.

(Mr. Frank leaves and Josh walks up to Kevin.)

Josh: Hey Kev, mom wants you home right now. It's getting late.

Kevin: *(Moving fishing pole up and down.)* A few more minutes. I think I've got one. Oops, it got away.

Josh: Okay if I sit here awhile with you?

Kevin: Okay, as long as you don't push me into the water!

Josh: Ha ha, tempting.

Kevin: Not funny. Are you still mad at me?

Josh: Nah. I was just ticked off this morning. Actually, I'm just jealous because you have something of dad's, and I lost mine. *(Sighing)* I miss him.

Kevin: I miss him too. Here, you can hold my pole.

(Josh takes the fishing pole from Kevin.)

Josh: This is so boring though, sitting and waiting like forever.

Kevin: It's not either. Fishing is actually fun, especially when you catch a big one. Then, the wait is worth it.

Josh: You've been here all day, and caught nothing. How can that be worth it?

Kevin: I don't know. It just is.

(Kevin stands up and looks around. Then he stoops to pick up the baseball.)

Kevin: *(Grinning from ear to ear almost screaming)* Hey look! See! Staying here all day was worth it! Ha ha hah, it was really worth it!

Josh: What is wrong with you? Why are you screaming?

Kevin: Look! I found your ball.

(Both boys cheer loudly as Mr. Frank comes running up to them.)

Mr. Frank: Hey, what's going on? Did someone get hurt?

Josh: No Mr. Frank. Look, Kevin found my ball!

Mr. Frank: So it looks like Kevin waiting patiently all day paid off after all.

Josh: Yep. It's like what dad said, "Jesus gives all of us a purpose." Dad said that's something we need to remember, especially while he is away.

Kevin: (*Grinning*) Hey, Josh, I guess your purpose is to lose things so I can find them.

Josh: Ha Ha! Don't think so.

Mr. Frank: Well boys, you seem to be happy now. Your dad would be very proud of both of you. But I think your purpose right now is to get home for dinner.