

Small Wonders

Words of Love

Percy the Possum learns that love is more than nice words.

Lesson Link: God's love in action and living as a family of love.

It's not unusual for us to become so caught up in the world's ideas and teachings about love that we don't put love into action in the way Jesus showed us.

Percy the Possum's real name was Persnickety the Possum because he was persnickety. But most of the Toys had trouble saying "Persnickety," so they called him Percy.

Percy liked to read books of poetry. Sometimes the Toys could hear him reading loudly from his home in the top of the barn.

The Toys noticed that many of the poems had the word "love" in them.

One day Pinnetti the Puppet asked Percy, "What is love?"

Percy smiled and said, "Love makes you want to give out flowers and candy to those around you."

The next Tuesday, the Toys were raking leaves in the park. Percy sat on a bench nearby, reading his poetry about love.

"What is love?" Brambles the Porcupine asked Percy.

Percy said, "Love is a special feeling that makes you want to think about it all the time."

Brambles grinned. "I have feelings all the time. It must be love," she said. She dropped her rake and ran home to think about love.

On Thursday, the Toys were repairing the wooden rail on the little bridge over the stream. Percy sat on the bank of the stream and read his poetry about love.

Tell-Tale the Mouse asked Percy, "What is love?"

"Love is the reason we write poetry," Percy replied.



On Friday, the Toys gathered to paint the fence in front of Granna's cottage.

Percy sat under a tree and wrote a poem about love.

"Why aren't you helping us?" asked Pencil-Neck the Brachiosaurus.

"Because I love to write about love," Percy said. "You should try it yourself!"

The next day, a big storm came along with loud thunder and heavy wind. A few of the planks blew off the roof of the barn. Rain fell in on Percy the Possum and his poetry books.

Percy yelled for help.

The Toys ran to the barn.

Percy stood in the middle of his home. Everything was dripping wet.

"Help me!" he said.

"What can we do?" asked Tell-Tale the Mouse.

Granna came to the door. She said, "Please get your umbrellas. We'll cover everything up until we can fix the roof."

The Toys dashed away to gather their umbrellas. They returned and put them over everything in Percy's home until the rain stopped. Granna took Percy to her cottage to dry off.

The rain stopped. Percy looked at his broken roof. He didn't know how to fix it. Granna suggested that he send out a note to all the Toys to come help.

Pinnetti the Puppet said no, but he sent flowers and chocolate.

Brambles said she couldn't help because she was feeling a special kind of feeling and needed to stay home to think about it.

Tell-Tale said she couldn't help because she was too busy reading a poem about love.

Pencil-Neck the Brachiosaurus said he was staying home to write a poem about love (which would take a lot of time since he had to learn how to write first).

Percy was unhappy. "I thought they loved me," he said to Granna.

"They do," Granna said. "But I think they're confused about what love is."

Percy asked her, "What is love?"

Granna said, "Love is serving others. Love is something we do, even when we don't feel like it. Love is what we show to one another because we're members of a family. Love is what we give even when we don't think others deserve it. Love is patient and kind and humble and polite and good."

"Oh dear," said Percy. "I think I know why they're confused about love."

Percy explained to Granna what he had said to the other Toys.

Granna smiled at him and said, "I'll call a meeting and tell them the truth."

So Granna did just that.

In no time at all, the Toys fixed Percy's roof.

Percy thanked them all. "I'll put my books of poetry aside and help you when you need it," he said.

The next time it rained, Percy sat under a dry roof. He thought to himself, *It is better to show love than just to read about it.*

Questions:

1. **How were the Toys confused about the meaning of love?**
(They thought it was a feeling or something "romantic" or simply poetic, but not something we show to others.)
2. **How can you show your love to those around you?**
(Answers may vary but should include things like doing kind deeds, helping them, saying kind words, and providing what they need.)