

Small Wonders

Talk about It

Brambles the Porcupine is upset, triggering a lesson about the need to talk.

Lesson Link: The need for communication with one another and with God. Much as we need to communicate with those around us—to find out what they need or to express our own needs—we need to communicate with God through prayer. The Church provides us with many rich prayers to use, but we can also talk to God as simply as we might talk to a loved one nearby. He loves us and wants to hear from us.

One afternoon, Brambles the Porcupine and Kevin the Duck bumped into each other in the center of the Kind Garden park.

“I’m upset,” Brambles said to Kevin.

“Why?” Kevin asked.

“You know why,” Brambles said.

Kevin shook his head. “How would I know if you haven’t told me?”

Brambles said sadly, “Because you are my friend and a friend *knows* why a friend is upset.” She gave him a prickly look. “Maybe you’re not the friend I thought you were.”

Brambles shuffled off.

Kevin was filled with doubt. *Maybe I’m not the friend she thought I was*, he said to himself. *Though I thought I was.*

Kevin went down to the stream to think about what kind of friend he really was.

Overbite the Beaver was adding twigs to his dam nearby. He saw Kevin sit down on a rock by the stream. Overbite gave a loud shout of “HELLO!”

Kevin looked the other way. He didn’t answer.



Overbite shuffled over to Kevin. He got really close behind him and shouted, “HELLO!”

Kevin jumped with a flurry of feathers. “Why did you shout at me?”

“Because you didn’t say *hello* after I first said *hello*,” Overbite said. “That’s the problem nowadays. Nobody listens anymore.”

“I suppose not,” said Kevin. “Maybe that’s why Brambles is upset.”

Overbite asked, “Brambles is upset because no one listens anymore?”

“I don’t know,” Kevin said. “She wouldn’t tell me.”

Overbite tilted his head. "Maybe she told you, and you weren't listening."

Kevin thought about it. "I'm *sure* I was listening."

"Did you say to her things like, 'I'm sorry, but I didn't hear you clearly' or 'Why are you upset?'" Overbite asked.

"I said words like that, but in a different order," Kevin replied.

"Well, *that's* the problem," Overbite said. "Words have to be in the right order, or they don't make sense."

Kevin shook his head. "I put them in the right order, especially since it was only one word."

Overbite was perplexed. "Well, it's hard to put one word in the wrong order. What was the word?"

"I asked her 'Why?'" said Kevin. "And she didn't tell me."

Overbite was aghast. "It's common practice to answer a *why* when someone asks you."

"I think so too," Kevin said. He stood up. "Now *I'm* upset," he said. He waddled away.

Overbite mused and considered and pondered his conversation with Kevin. "This is distressing," he decided.

He went to see his friend Pinnetti the Puppet. Pinnetti lived in a small wooden house painted red and green. He liked to dance and was doing just that when Overbite used his tail to knock on the door.

Pinnetti was happy to see his friend and invited him inside.

Overbite sat down on the carpet.

"Would you like to dance or play a game?" Pinnetti asked, because they often did both.

"This is no time for games," said Overbite.

"Oh. Then what time is it?" asked Pinnetti.

Overbite looked at the clock on the mantle. But since he couldn't tell time, he said, "It's time to get to the bottom of things."

"The bottom of *what* things?" Pinnetti asked.

"Exactly!" said Overbite. "*What things* is the very thing we need to get to the bottom of."

Pinnetti wasn't sure how to get to the bottom of something when he didn't know what it was. But he knew that Granna could figure it out. So he exclaimed, "Let's talk to Granna!"

Pinnetti and Overbite went to the cottage of Granna the Rabbit.

Granna listened as Overbite explained what had happened.

When Overbite was finished, Granna said, "We have to talk to Kevin." So they found Kevin the Duck and heard his part of the story.

"Now we have to talk to Brambles," Granna said.

Brambles was sitting outside the hollow log she called home. She looked up at them and gave a deep sigh.

"What's wrong?" Granna asked.

"Isn't it obvious?" Brambles asked.

"I wouldn't ask if it was obvious," Granna said.

"Look!" Brambles cried out and pointed. A big yellow ball was stuck in the entrance to the log. "I can't get in until the owner comes and removes it."

Overbite wiggled with excitement. "That's *my* yellow ball! I've been looking all over for it."

Granna asked Overbite, "Did you tell anyone the ball was missing?"

"No," he said.

Granna asked Brambles, "Did you tell anyone the ball was stuck in the log?"

"I was too upset to say so," said Brambles.

"Then how are we supposed to know?" asked Granna. Then she said, "Friends *talk* to friends. If you don't tell or you don't ask, then you can't expect friends to help you."

The Toys didn't know what to say.

"So, let's be good friends and get that ball out of the log," Granna said.

And together they did.

Questions:

1. **What did the Toys learn about talking to one another?** (We need to tell others what we are feeling and thinking. Others can't help us if we aren't clear about what we need.)
2. **What does Granna's lesson about talking teach us about prayer?** (God loves us deeply and wants us to talk to Him.)