

Waste Not, Want Not

Thomas and Kate had looked forward to the camping trip all week, and finally the weekend was here. Early Saturday morning, they helped Father and Mother load up the car with tents, camping chairs, fishing gear, water bottles, and a cooler filled with food.

They double-checked they had everything they would need and then began their journey to Lake Clearwater. When they arrived at the campsite, Kate helped Father pitch the tent, and Thomas helped gather kindling so they could make a fire after dinner.

After a delicious dinner of grilled burgers and potato wedges, Father helped Thomas light the fire and Kate put the marshmallows on wooden sticks. Thomas and Kate both enjoyed eating roasted marshmallows. After eating the three on his stick, Thomas proclaimed, "Let's do more!"



"How many more can you eat?" asked Kate, laughing.

"The whole bag full!"

"You can have another," said Mother, "and we can see how you're feeling after that."

Thomas roasted and ate another and again asked for more. Father and Mother laughed at Thomas' enthusiasm, but cautioned him to not overdo.

That night, after Father and Mother had told camping stories from when they were children, Thomas lay on his sleeping bag and played with his flashlight. If he put his hand up in just a certain way, the shadow would look like a dog, or sometimes a deer, and he found he could even do something that looked like an elephant!



“Thomas, don’t stay up too late! We have a big day tomorrow, and we wouldn’t want to use up the batteries on the first night. We need those batteries to last the whole time we are here.”

“Yes, Dad,” Thomas replied. But he snuggled down into his sleeping bag and played with it under the covers so Mother and Father wouldn’t notice.

The next morning, Father took Thomas fishing. He showed Thomas how to bait a fish hook, and Thomas had so much fun. At one point, Thomas put five worms on a single hook. But using five worms did not help him catch five fish, as he had hoped—or even one fish. However, Father caught two fish, and they ate them at dinner that night.

After dinner, Kate went to get the bag of marshmallows out.



"The bag is empty!" Kate cried.

"Oh, I'm sorry," Thomas said sheepishly. "I ate them all last night."

"Is that why you were complaining of a stomachache last night?" asked Father.

"I guess so..." Thomas mumbled.

As the sun set and night fell, Thomas went to pull out his flashlight. "Dad! My flashlight won't turn on!"

"Really? We put new batteries in it before we left... Unless... Thomas, how long were you playing with your flashlight before you went to sleep last night?"

"Till pretty late," Thomas admitted.

"I don't have a spare set of batteries for your flashlight. If we were at home, we could get some at the store, but I only brought enough for this trip. You know, have you heard the saying: 'Waste not, want not'?"



"Maybe. But what does that mean?"

"When you waste something, and you use more than is needed, there's going to come a time when you'll be sorry you wasted it. And this doesn't only apply to the batteries. Can you think of anything else recently where you used more than was good or necessary?"

"Like when I used five worms for the one hook?"

Father nodded.

"Or when I ate the whole bag of marshmallows?"

"Yes. Such small things might not seem like they make much of a difference. But the Bible says that if you are faithful in small things, you can be trusted with bigger things. That's because you've proven yourself to be diligent and not wasteful."



"I understand," Thomas said. "I want to be trusted with bigger things, and I'm sorry I wasted."

"I know you are," said Father. "Come, you can use my flashlight for now."

The next day, Thomas was careful with the fish bait, using only as much as was needed for one hook. To his surprise and delight, he caught his very first fish, and he decided to give it to Kate to apologize for eating all the marshmallows by himself.

Thomas determined that from now on he would follow the counsel of that saying, "Waste not, want not."

Verse: He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much. Luke 16:10 AKJV

Authored by Aaliyah Smith. Illustrations by Alvi.

Design by Stefan Merour.

Published on My Wonder Studio.

Copyright © 2015 by The Family International

