

# A RECIPE FOR BUILDING FAITH

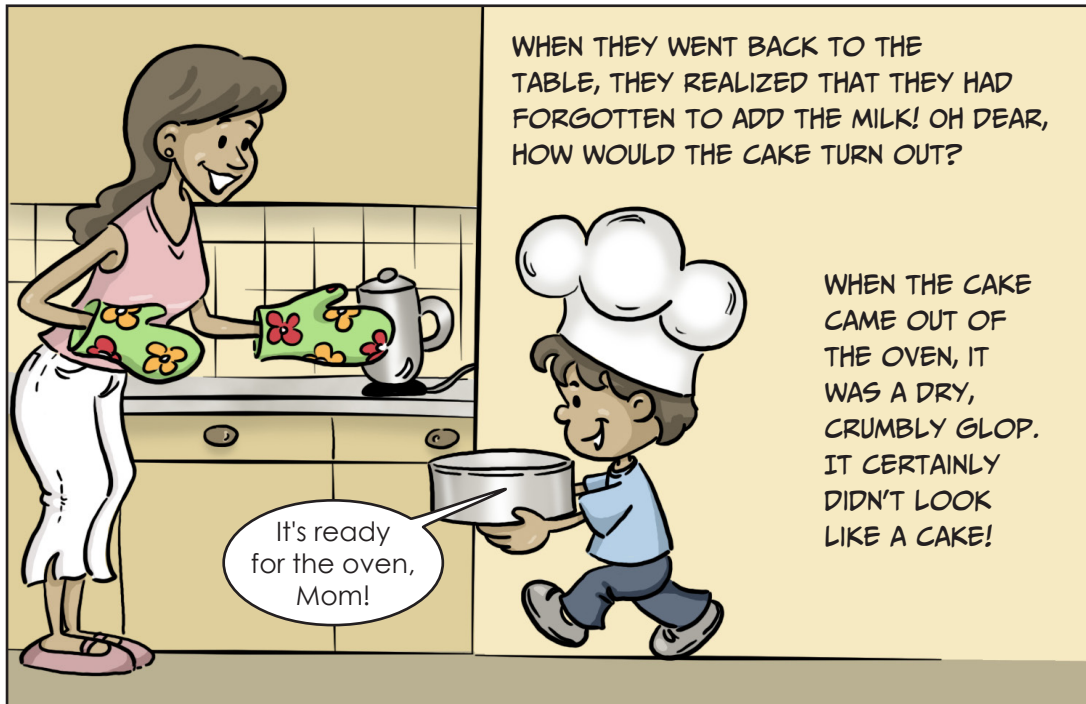
SALLY AND ETHAN WERE BAKING A CAKE. THEY MIXED TOGETHER THE DRY INGREDIENTS—FLOUR, SUGAR, SALT, AND BAKING POWDER. THEN THEY ADDED EGGS AND OIL.

THEY WERE SO EAGER TO MAKE THE CAKE THAT THEY STIRRED THE INGREDIENTS QUICKLY, PUT THE LUMPY BATTER IN THE PAN, AND ASKED THEIR MOTHER TO PUT IT INTO THE OVEN.



WHEN THEY WENT BACK TO THE TABLE, THEY REALIZED THAT THEY HAD FORGOTTEN TO ADD THE MILK! OH DEAR, HOW WOULD THE CAKE TURN OUT?

WHEN THE CAKE CAME OUT OF THE OVEN, IT WAS A DRY, CRUMBLY GLOP. IT CERTAINLY DIDN'T LOOK LIKE A CAKE!



IF YOU WANT A TASTY AND MOIST CAKE, YOU HAVE TO NOT ONLY HAVE ALL THE INGREDIENTS FOR A CAKE, BUT YOU NEED TO ADD THEM INTO THE MIX AND THEN COOK IT AS THE RECIPE DIRECTS.



BUILDING YOUR FAITH IN GOD IS A LITTLE BIT LIKE BAKING A CAKE. YOU NEED TO BRING ALL THE NECESSARY INGREDIENTS TOGETHER TO BUILD YOUR FAITH. WHAT ARE THESE INGREDIENTS?

SOME OF THE MAIN WAYS YOU BUILD YOUR FAITH ARE BY READING GOD'S WORD, SPENDING TIME PRAYING AND LISTENING TO JESUS, AND DOING WHAT JESUS SHOWS YOU TO DO. IT'S IMPORTANT TO NOT ONLY KNOW WHAT YOU NEED TO BUILD YOUR FAITH, BUT ALSO TO MAKE SURE YOU PUT EACH STEP INTO ACTION.

IF YOU LEARN ABOUT JESUS AND HOW HE WANTS YOU TO LIVE, BUT YOU DON'T ACT ON WHAT YOU'RE LEARNING, THEN IT'S LIKE LEAVING OUT AN IMPORTANT INGREDIENT, AND THE END RESULT WILL BE LACKING OR NOT QUITE RIGHT. FOR EXAMPLE, IF YOU READ FROM GOD'S WORD ABOUT HOW TO LOVE THOSE WHO ARE UNKIND TO YOU, BUT THEN CHOOSE TO BE UNKIND TO THOSE WHO AREN'T NICE TO YOU, THEN YOU ARE NOT FOLLOWING THROUGH ON THE INSTRUCTIONS NEEDED TO SHOW LOVE AND KINDNESS TO OTHERS. YOU ARE LEAVING OUT A KEY INGREDIENT—OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S WORD. YOU HAVE TO PUT YOUR FAITH IN GOD'S WORD INTO ACTION—THAT MEANS YOU FOLLOW THROUGH. THIS IS HOW YOU BUILD FAITH.

THE NEXT TIME SALLY AND ETHAN BAKED A CAKE, THEY REMEMBERED TO FOLLOW THE RECIPE CLOSELY AND INCLUDE ALL THE INGREDIENTS. THEY MIXED TOGETHER THE DRY INGREDIENTS OF FLOUR, SUGAR, SALT, AND BAKING POWDER.



IN THE NEW TESTAMENT, JAMES WRITES:  
"WHAT GOOD DOES IT DO TO SAY YOU HAVE FAITH IN GOD,  
BUT THEN NOT DO ANYTHING TO HELP SOMEONE YOU KNOW NEEDS YOUR HELP?  
"IF YOU HAVE FAITH, THEN YOU WILL DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE NEEDS YOU SEE.  
FAITH WITHOUT ACTION IS DEAD, BUT FAITH WITH ACTION IS REAL."  
(JAMES 2:14 AND 17, PARAPHRASED).



THEN THEY ADDED THE EGGS AND OIL.  
AND FINALLY, THEY STIRRED IN THE MILK.



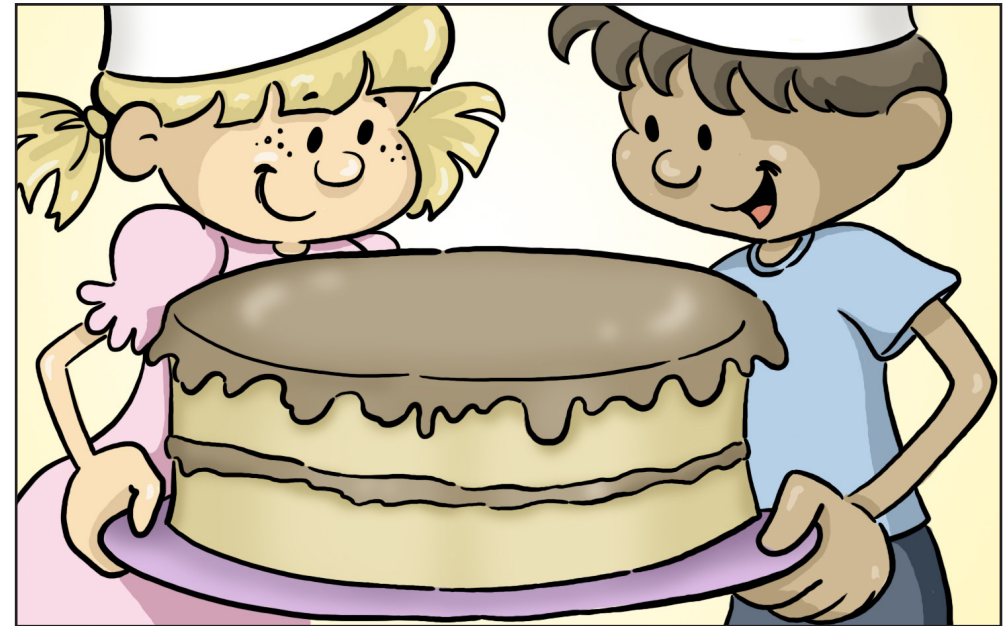
THEN THEY PRAYED THAT THEIR CAKE WOULD COOK PROPERLY.

ONCE AGAIN, IT WAS TIME TO PUT THEIR CAKE IN THE OVEN.



THIS TIME IT WORKED! THE CAKE TURNED OUT BEAUTIFULLY, AND THEY WERE ABLE TO DECORATE IT AND SHARE IT WITH OTHERS.

WHEN YOU MIX GOOD DEEDS, FOLLOW-THROUGH, AND PRAYER IN WITH YOUR BIBLE STUDIES, THEN YOU HAVE THE INGREDIENTS TO STRENGTHEN YOUR FAITH!



HOW COULD YOU PUT FAITH INTO ACTION (BY DOING WHAT YOU KNOW IS RIGHT) FOR THE FOLLOWING SCENARIOS?

- YOUR PARENT ASKS FOR HELP CLEARING THE TABLE.
  - YOU HELP CLEAR THE TABLE AND THEN GO PLAY.
  - YOU SKIP HELPING AND GO PLAY.
- A FELLOW STUDENT NEEDS TO BORROW AN ERASER.
  - YOU TELL HIM TO GET HIS OWN.
  - YOU LEND HIM YOURS.
- YOUR BROTHER IS SICK.
  - YOU PRAY FOR HIM, BUT LATER YOU LAUGH AND PLAY WHEN HE'S TRYING TO SLEEP.
  - YOU PRAY FOR HIM, THEN PLAY QUIETLY WHILE HE'S SLEEPING.
- THERE IS MUD ALL OVER YOUR SHOES.
  - YOU REMOVE THEM BEFORE WALKING THROUGH THE HOUSE.
  - YOU TRACK MUD INDOORS AND DON'T OFFER TO CLEAN UP.
- YOUR FRIEND HAS DIFFICULTY ON HIS SPELLING TEST.
  - YOU OFFER TO HELP YOUR FRIEND STUDY FOR THE NEXT SPELLING TEST.
  - YOU LAUGH AT YOUR FRIEND'S MISFORTUNE.