

"How Much Does It Cost?"

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By Rebecca Enney

Ahhhh! It must be fall! School bells are ringing, cheerleaders are practicing, and the air has finally cooled. Elizabeth went to the first football game of the season and now, in addition to wanting to play soccer, she wants to be a cheerleader.

"When is supper?" she asked. "S, S - T, S - T - A - R - T- LETS START!" And then she cheered "tick, tick, tick, tick, tick, tick, tick, tick BOOM! WE'RE DYNOMITE!

Aunt Gertrude shot Elizabeth a look. Her mother just kept working at the stove and her Dad was pouring himself a cup of tea.

When supper was all prepared Elizabeth asked if she could say table grace. She kind of surprised them by saying the Superman Prayer. It goes like this:

(♪sung to the theme of Superman♪)
THANK YOU GOD FOR GIVING US FOOD
THANK YOU GOD FOR GIVING US FOOD
FOR THE FOOD WE EAT
FOR THE FRIENDS WE MEET
THANK YOU GOD FOR GIVING US FOOD!

Elizabeth, figuring that maybe she had been a bit too rambunctious, left a bit of quiet time for eating before she asked her next question. . . . "So, can I play on the soccer team with Running Chairs? You said you'd think about it." There was a silence around the table that did not bode well.

"Well?"



"Dear," her daddy said, "your mother and I have spoken at length about it and we both feel that because there are so many Sunday morning games, we would prefer you not play on the team. It would mean we would all miss church for weeks."

"But Daddy," Elizabeth was thinking fast. "We could go to the Saturday night church at 5:30."

"That's a good suggestion," said her mother. "But you know it is hard for Aunt Gertrude in the evening because of her neck. And your father often leads a Sunday School class on Sunday mornings. It just doesn't work to go to soccer on Sunday mornings."

"But Running Chairs parents said SHE can be on the team!" whined Elizabeth.

"Child," said Aunt Gertrude, "if Running Chairs parents said she could jump off a bridge, would you jump too?"

"The cost is too high," said her father. "I don't mean the dollar cost. I mean the cost to our family life together. We must look at what is important. Our family places a high priority on our Faith in God and our worship time together. Elizabeth, there will always be many things in life that will tempt you away from regular worship. They cost too much. They nibble away at our commitment to God and soon we would find ourselves outside the church. That is not how we show respect to God." And then he said those fateful words "End of discussion!"

They all ate the rest of the meal in silence. Elizabeth was really disappointed that she would not be allowed to play on the soccer team. Soccer seems way more fun than church. But in her heart, Elizabeth knows that church is more important. So she argued no more.

THE END