

"What Do We Do About Strangers?"

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By Rebecca Enney

Jesus told his followers that anyone can love their friends. That is easy. But then Jesus said he wants us to even love our enemies and strangers! Now that is much harder.

Of course as children, you must be very careful about strangers. But for those safe times, like at school when there is a teacher in the room or like at church when Mrs. Potato Head is nearby or like when you are out in public with your mommy or daddy, then it may be a safe time to show love for a stranger.

Do you remember that a few years ago Elizabeth and her father delivered food to the Food Pantry over in Harrisburg and Elizabeth met those two poor potato sisters? Their names are Latisha and Taquoia. They were strangers to Elizabeth when she met them in the playground. Her father was with her at the playground and she asked him first before she played with them. That was exactly correct, to ask a parent before playing with a stranger in an unfamiliar playground!

Elizabeth has seen Latisha and Taquoia, oh maybe four or five times over the past few years. She really doesn't know them like she knows her good friends like Barabas and Sam and Running Chairs!

It was a very good and kind deed when Elizabeth befriended those two little potatoes. But you never know with strangers just what might happen. And something DID happen.

She saw the two little potato sisters at the church picnic this fall and again they played together and had lots of fun. That is, they had fun until Elizabeth discovered they had 'taken' some of her toys from her basket! Do you remember that story?

And this is when Elizabeth showed love to strangers, in the presence of her father. Instead of being angry at Latisha and Taquoia, like their potato father was, Elizabeth decided not to be angry. Instead, in the spirit of friendliness, she gave them the little case for the toys they had taken!

In this way Elizabeth showed love to Latisha and Taquoia, who are practically strangers while in the safe presence of her father?

God is our loving heavenly father, and we are always in His presence. God asks that we show kindness to the enemies and strangers around us. That is a hard task, but it is what he expects!

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