

"The Days after Christmas" (that is "Days" not "Daze"!))

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by Rebecca Enney

I hope you all have had a Merry Christmas. But you know, not every day can be like Christmas. Barabas and Gator had a really lovely Christmas Day, but the day after Christmas was not so good.

Francis, as you know, has some difficult behavior. And with all the rushing around at Christmas time, well, he forgot to take his medicine for several days. Also, Florence, Gator's mother who was there for a visit too, Francis and Florence played a lot of games of Parcheesi and Florence won EVERY GAME. Francis did not like losing EVERY TIME. As YOU may know, it is hard to be the loser of a game, especially if it is EVERY TIME!

AND there was some real yummy cookies at lunch and Francis had put the last FOURTEEN on his plate and while he went to the bathroom, Florence took them all and ate them down in one gulp! This embarrassed Gator that his mother did that. And then Frank made the mistake of LAUGHING at Francis, and THAT embarrassed Barabas that his father laughed at Francis.

So Francis left the house very angry and slammed the front door really loud on his way out on December 26 and after he slammed the door shut, he thought of more to say so he shouted through the letter slot in the door "I am NEVER coming back here again!"

This happens sometimes in families you know.

Uncle Floyd was worried about Francis and spent a lot of time searching for him but by supper time he had not returned. Finally, they called Officer Spud to see if he could help.

The next morning Officer Spud showed up at the front door with Francis, who had found some homeless men at Downattheriver and Francis walked with the homeless men to the Susquehanna Harbor Safe Haven Temporary Emergency Shelter to sleep. The shelter is a warm place that has some mattresses on the floor for men who have no other place to go on very, very cold nights.



Uncle Floyd hugged Francis when he came into the living room. He asked everyone to gather around and welcome Francis back. And they did.

Florence said: "I am sorry," for snatching the cookies off Francis's plate and for always winning at Parcheesi. And Francis apologized for getting so angry. He said: "I will work to be kinder next time."

Families are often the safest place to learn to say: "I am sorry." And "I will be kinder next time." No families are perfect. However, God thinks families are so important, that when His son Jesus came to earth, Jesus was born into a family.

Thank God for loving families! THE END