

## **"An Encouraging Word"**

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by Rebecca Enney

Well, here is Ken. You may or may not remember what happened to him last year on July 4? Ken and his buddy Kat invited Gator to walk down the alley with them to see something they "found". Gator was a little nervous about going with them, and well he should have been, but the temptation was really high, so he followed them. But when Gator saw what they had hidden behind the garages, he quickly found a reason to just walk away.

You see, they found this large firecracker rocket left behind on city island!



So, later that evening, Gator and Barabas heard a loud bang and when they looked out their bedroom window, they saw the rocket exploding and then they heard a firetruck coming down the alley because the one neighbor's garage had a small fire start!

AND Ken was taken to the hospital because he had injured himself!! It was a very bad scene!

So, this year, on July 4, when Gator saw Ken in the alley, he thought to himself "Just do not get tempted! Just walk away." But when Ken said "hello", well Gator did say "hello" in return.

Ken sat down next to Gator and said "So, see any good fireworks this year?"

"Nope. We stayed home cause it was raining." said Gator. And then Gator added "Did you? I mean, did you see any ROCKETS that you brought home this year?"

"I did not! I mean, I learned my lesson last year. That cast on my arm was a real bummer! And you know, Pastor Glenn was a good help for me. He helped a lot."

There will always be times in your life when you are tempted to do something you should not do. It will always happen. You might take something that is not yours, you may say hurtful words to someone, you may tell a lie! This happens to the best of us!

But you know, even when we are not perfect, God sends us out to be kind and helpful to everyone around us. So, just because you are not perfect, it does not mean you do not need to try to do the good and helpful deed.

So, Gator, trying to be kind and encouraging, said to Ken:

"I AM GLAD KEN, THAT YOU LEARNED YOUR LESSON! AND I LIKE PASTOR GLENN TOO! HE KICKED THE SOCCER BALL AROUND WITH ME IN THE PLAYGROUND LAST WEEK!"

And then Ken left and Gator thought to himself: "I should remember to say nice things to Ken more often."

Maybe YOU can say something nice to someone who has made big mistakes and you could encourage them just like Gator did with Ken.

THE END