

Secret Hideout - Sugar Creek Gang - 4

Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another, for that indeed is what you are doing. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more, and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one. 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

At the beginning of the movie a voice is calling in the rain, "Bob, where are you?" Even though Bob made many wrong choices, Tom still loved him and wanted his new friends to love Bob, too. It isn't easy to love someone who rejects and hurts us, but Tom still loved his brother even when Bob was unkind to him.

Even though we make many wrong choices, God still loves us. God chooses to love us when we are very unlovable. We thank Him for His faithful love for us. What are you thankful for?

The poem Mary Had a Little Lamb said "it made the children laugh and play to see a lamb at school." The gang thought it would be fun to see the children "laugh and play" when Poetry brought his lamb to school, but instead of it being fun, having the lamb at school caused a complete disruption and upset Miss Lily.

Have you ever thought something was going to be funny and it turned out completely different?

When Mr. Padler visited the cemetery he was still very sad about losing his wife and sons even though they died years earlier. There isn't any time limit on grief. Even though life goes on, the loss of a loved one can leave an empty spot that can remain for life. The good news for believers is that we can see our loved ones again in heaven. 1 Thessalonians 4:13 says that we don't "grieve as others do who have no hope."

Do you believe in Jesus?

Many people tried to work out a deal for Big Bob so that he wouldn't have to go to reform school. Mr. Padler gave him refuge. Miss Lily and some of the parents tried to help him. Even though so many people cared about him and tried to give him a second chance, Bob continued to be a trouble maker. Even though people don't respond and change when we try to help them, we should never give up on them.

Do you have someone who needs your encouragement?

When Miss Lilly wanted Big Jim and all of the children to sign a paper saying that they would treat Bob with respect, Big Jim said that the Sugar Creek Gang couldn't sign the paper. He remembered all of the problems they had with Bob and couldn't forgive him that easily. Later when Big Jim saw how much Tom loved his big brother, Jim knew that he needed to give him a second chance, also.

Is there someone who needs a second chance in your life?

Mr. Padler had compassion for Bob and helped the Sugar Creek Gang realize that it was important to encourage and help each other. Mr. Padler said that it could have been his son who needed help. Tom wanted to help his brother, but he wouldn't go back to hanging around with Bob and Shorty because he knew that it would only get him in trouble. When we help others we need to help them to what is right, not join them in doing what is wrong.

Do your friends encourage you to do what is right?

Dear Lord, give us love for those who need our love. Help us to do what is right and to encourage others to do what is right. When we make wrong choices help us to come to You for forgiveness. Thank You for the second chances You offer us. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.