

January 12, 2021
The Telltale Prints
Read Romans 16:19–20



Tara turned a page and showed the picture of Papa Bear to her little sister, Beth.

Their brother, Jason, looked up as Tara continued to read the story to Beth.

" 'Who's been eating my porridge?' Papa Bear growled."

Jason spoke up. "Papa Bear could have found out who ate it if he had lifted fingerprints from his spoon," he told them. "We learned in school that everybody has a different set of prints. No two are alike—ever. Match the prints and you've got the criminal."

"Yeah, well, that's nice, Jason. Now let us finish this story," Tara said.

But Jason grabbed his magnifying glass and held it above Tara's fingers. "See those ridges?" he asked. "They leave a mark on everything you touch. Investigators use special powders to dust for fingerprints, and then the print can be photographed and lifted with a print-lifting tape."

"Jason! We don't care about fingerprints right now. We just want to read the story," Tara said.

"All right, but just remember—I've been practicing with the Junior Detective kit I got for my birthday," Jason grumbled, "so you'd better keep your fingers off my stuff!" He scowled at his sisters.

"Don't be rude, Jason," Mom warned as she came into the room. "I hope you'll make sure the prints you're leaving on the lives of others are nice—not ugly."

"Prints on people's lives? What does that mean?" Tara asked.

"Well, the impressions we make on others are something like fingerprints," Mom explained.

"People identify us by either the pleasant way we talk and act or by how rude we are. We develop a reputation for ourselves. And of course, it's especially important that our words and actions please God."

"Yeah, Jason," Tara said. "You better remember that, and . . ." She stopped when she saw her mother looking sternly in her direction. "And . . . and I'll remember it, too," she finished with a grin.

HOW ABOUT YOU?

Do the prints – the impressions – you make on others please both them and God? Make sure the reputation you gain is that of helpfulness, friendliness, and patience.

LEAVE GOOD IMPRESSIONS

Scripture Memory Verse:

“Choose a good reputation over great riches, for being held in high esteem is better than having silver or gold.”

Proverbs 22:1