

January 13, 2021
The Nursery Lesson
Read 2 Timothy 3:13-17



Moments before the morning service began, Meredith walked down the church aisle and whispered in her mother's ear. "I'm going to the nursery, okay? They need my help again." Mom looked concerned, but nodded.

After the service, she was surprised to see her mother at the nursery door. The supervisor went to greet her while Meredith continued picking up toys.

"We appreciate your daughter's help," Meredith heard Mrs. Jones say.

"She likes to help," Mom responded, "but I'm hoping you'll be able to excuse her next week. She's missed so many services lately, and I'd like her to hear the missionary speaker next Sunday."

Mrs. Jones and Mom talked in low tones for a moment. When Meredith finished her work, she and her mother left together. "Meredith," Mom said as they walked down the hall, "you led me to believe that Mrs. Jones asked you to help in the nursery today. She says she didn't—neither today nor last week."

"Actually, I just said they needed my help," Meredith defended herself, "and they did. It was really busy." Meredith knew her argument was weak.

"How would you feel, Meredith," Mom questioned, "if Mrs. Jones said to you, 'I would like to pay you to take care of the babies every week'?"

"That would be great," Meredith said. "I'd earn some money."

"And what if you did the work, and she didn't pay you?" Mom asked.

"That wouldn't be fair," Meredith replied.

"But she didn't promise," Mom reminded her. "She only said she would like to pay you."

"It still wouldn't be fair," Meredith protested.

"No," agreed Mom, "but you did that to me today. You tricked me into believing something untrue so you could do what you wanted. Isn't that a kind of lie?"

"I . . . I'm sorry," Meredith mumbled. "I thought it was good to help."

Mom nodded. "Helping others is part of serving the Lord," she agreed, "but learning is important, too. The subject of today's sermon was honesty. I'll tell you about it on the drive home."

HOW ABOUT YOU?

Have you deceived someone, or have you been deceived – tricked into believing something untrue? Lies take many forms. When you twist your words to make them sound like you're saying something you are not, it's kind of lie – and it's sin. Ask God to help you be completely honest.

Scripture Memory Verse:

"Do not steal. Do not cheat one another. Do not lie."

Leviticus 19:11

DECIEVING IS LYING