

God Says Yes . . . and No



Watch me!" called Michael as he rode down the sidewalk on Drake's new bike. "It's easy! I don't even need the training wheels."

Michael carefully steered the bike around a crack in the concrete, then put on the brakes to stop at the end of the driveway. When he had turned the bike around, he rode back to where Drake stood watching. (*Show picture 34-ME10.*)

"It's very nice," said Michael, getting off and handing the bike to Drake. "I wish I had one."

"I got it 'cause my mom got a job and works now," Drake said. "We have all kinds of things now that Mom works."

Just then Michael heard his mom calling for him to come home.

"Thank you for letting me ride your new bike," Michael told Drake.

As he walked toward his house, Michael thought about the new bike. "I wonder why Mommy doesn't get a job. Then I could have a bike like Drake's."

After supper when the family was having its special prayer time together, Daddy said, "I want us to pray for a new friend tonight. Her name is Mrs. Roberts, and her son's name is Matt. Mr. Roberts doesn't live with them anymore, and Mrs. Roberts needs to find a job so she can take care of Matt. Let's ask God to help her quickly find work."

After they prayed for Mrs. Roberts, Michael thought of something. Why couldn't he pray for Mommy to find a job too? Then he could have nice things like Drake. Michael decided to surprise Mommy and Daddy by praying by himself about Mommy's job.

One evening when the family was getting ready to pray together, Mommy said, "Oh, I almost forgot to tell you! I saw Mrs. Roberts at the store this morning, and she told me she has found a job! How thankful we should be to God for hearing and answering our prayers for her in that way!"

Michael felt so excited he thought he would explode! "What about you, Mommy?" he asked. "When are you going to start working?"

Mommy and Daddy stared at him with a puzzled look on their faces.

"What are you talking about, Michael?" asked Daddy. "Mommy already has a job, a big job, taking care of all of us and our home."

"But if she had another job like Drake's mother," said Michael, "then we would have enough money to get lots of nice things like Drake has." He smiled at them and said, "I've been praying for you to find a job too, Mommy."

Daddy and Mommy looked at each other. Then they both looked at Michael.

"I believe God has answered both your prayers, Michael," said Daddy. "His answer to your prayer for Mrs. Roberts to find a job is 'yes.' It is right for her to go to work to earn money because she has no one else to help her take care of Matt. But God's answer to your prayer for Mommy to have another job is 'no.' God helps me provide for our family. He makes it possible for us to have all the things we need. God always takes care of us, just as He has promised to do in the Bible."

Daddy smiled at Michael. "Instead of asking God for another job for Mommy, let's thank Him for Mommy and all the things she does for us."

"Okay," said Michael. "I'll pray first."

Questions

1. What did Michael really want? (A new bicycle.)
2. How did God answer Michael's prayer about Mrs. Roberts? (Yes.)
3. How did God answer Michael's prayer about Mommy? (No.)
4. Who knows what is best for us? (God.)

