

REACH WIDE

HOW BIG IS YOUR WORLD?

By Nancy Tichy

Chapter 7: “All Hands on Deck!”

The swelling in Jeremy’s face subsided and the bruising disappeared. He ate lunch with Max and attended detention, spending the time helping Max with homework assignments...mostly math and English. Detention was an eye opener for Jeremy, giving him ample opportunity to observe and, sometimes, interact with several disinterested, even angry students. It didn’t take long to realize that Dad’s prediction about the black eye being just the beginning was actually pretty accurate.

“You’re awfully quiet, Jeremy,” Mom observed one evening at dinner. “And we don’t hear much about Max, either. Not since he brought your bike back and traded it for his original classic that you repaired.”

Jeremy swallowed hard, fighting back tears. “Until I met Max, I didn’t really see the campus clearly, Mom. Cara’s been a lot more alert than I’ve been to recognize kids that really are lacking so many things, and especially not knowing Jesus. And, now that I know Max’s family better, I need to set the record straight about a couple of things.

“Max lives with his older sister, not his mother. Both parents died in a raid. All that’s left of a large family network is now here in our town...his sister and her two preschool kids, Max and a younger brother.

“The agency that brought them here has housed them in that apartment complex closer into town. For six months they pay their expenses – rent, grocery store vouchers and free treatment at a clinic they can walk to. I went home with Max one day and they have almost no furniture. Mostly camping stuff...army cots and air mattresses with blankets. A stove and fridge come with the apartment and there’s a free laundromat on the ground floor.”

By this time, Cara was crying softly. Dad gave Mom a knowing look, cleared his throat and said quietly, “I think this calls for some action.” Mom nodded her agreement.

“What do you think about our family adopting Max’s?” Jeremy was hesitant, yet hopeful, with his suggestion.

Everyone was clearly in agreement. After their usual time for prayer, Mom suggested that each one think and pray about how they could each participate, and they would make a family plan. The following Wednesday, Dad brought home pizza and each one offered ideas on what they should do.

Dad reported that he had an appointment with the agency representative to find out Max’s family’s immigration status and whether they could help in these matters.

Mom’s plan was to pick Cara up after school, and the two would visit Max’s sister...with a welcome basket of home baked treats.

Cara would alert her ‘study buddies’ and they begin collecting toys and children’s books. As they got better acquainted, Cara would volunteer to babysit after school to give Max’s sister time for herself. Jeremy offered to help out, too, once he and Max were out of detention.

Jeremy asked for prayer that he could find a New Testament version to give to Max for them to read together.

The family ended with a time of prayer. They were excited about what lay ahead, trusting that their efforts, as they listened closely for God’s guidance, would go well.



REACH WIDE: Ideas for Engagement

Jeremy is learning to show love to this family in our stories. Max is from a country that is not safe for him and his family. People like him around the world need prayer. While you can’t travel all over the world, you can pray over all the world. Through Unreached of the Day, you can read about a different group of people every day who don’t know about Jesus. A map shows you where they live, tells you a little bit about their culture, and gives you suggestions on how to pray for them. You can put a star sticker on a map where the people live that you are



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RESOURCES

<https://joshuaproject.net/pray/unreachedoftheday>

Growing Compassionate Kids: Helping Kids See Beyond Their Backyard by Jan Johnson (Upper Room Books, 2001)



BE CLOSE: Keep It Coming!

SHARING A PRAYER

Be alert with your kids, watching for ways to encourage those who live in your everyday life. Who in your community needs to be noticed, seen, cared for? It may be firefighters, teachers, a single mom or city leaders. When God shows you a group or individual that needs your attention, write a prayer for those you have noticed. Schedule a time you can have a short visit with them and pray your prayer for them. Be sure you learn their names and continue to pray for them regularly.



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CARING EARS

We hear conversations every day, but our ears are able to do more than just hear sounds. Our ears can learn to hear hearts! Maybe a friend says she is having a bad day. Her words say that things have not gone the way she hoped, but her heart says she needs someone to listen, to encourage her, to pray for her. This month, listen for times when you hear a comment that signals you need to listen to someone's heart. You can simply say, "I will listen. Tell me about it." You can pray with them or encourage them after they share. Practice this with your kids. Then try your caring ears out in your community. What did you hear? What did God ask you to do?



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LOVE DIFFERENTLY: Keep It Coming!

SOUP FOR SENIORS

Every Saturday, make and deliver this soup to senior citizens in your community. Allow for a time for conversation and prayer each week, if possible.

Chicken Noodle Soup in a Jar - Ingredients:

2 tbsp. dried onion flakes, 3 tablespoons chicken bouillon granules, 1 tsp. dried parsley, 1 tsp. dried celery flakes, 1 or 2 tsp. dried carrots, 3 cups medium egg noodles. In a quart jar, layer from bottom in the order listed above, then seal the jar. Cut a circle of material to decorate the lid if possible. Tie a ribbon around the top to attach the cooking instructions on it. Include a 10 oz. can of chicken separately.

Write these instructions on your gift tag:

How to make Chicken Noodle Soup: Bring 16 cups of water to boil in a large saucepan. Add the contents of the jar of soup mix. Stir. Cover, reduce heat and simmer for 25 minutes. Add one 10 oz. can of cooked chicken. Simmer for five minutes until vegetables are tender and chicken is heated through. Enjoy!



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LOVE DIFFERENTLY: Keep It Coming!

LOVE IN ANOTHER LANGUAGE

Do the research—do you have an ESL (English as a Second Language) class in your community? Ask how you can serve for a semester — set-up or clean-up, provide supplies, spend time in conversation, bring snacks, etc. Over those weeks, try to learn some words in the language of the people in the class using the Duo Lingo app on your phone or computer.



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