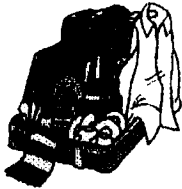


The Aardsma Weekly

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Editor: Rachel Aardsma



When The Relatives Came...



This week my oldest sister Jennifer and her husband Steve came to visit us, along with their three children: Joshua, Ethan, and Katelyn. After over two weeks of cleaning in preparation for their visit, we were more than glad to have a lovely vacation with the five of them for a week. They stayed in Matthew's room, which meant he had to move in with Timothy and Caleb for a few days.

Two days after they arrived we had a big family reunion with all ten of us kids and all the grandchildren, spouses, and spouses-to-be. It was a day long event, and lots of fun. We had it in a big open pavilion at a local park, with plenty of room for games. We even rented a big jump-house, which is kind of like a huge inflatable trampoline with walls and a roof. (The kids had a blast in that jump-house, and it even lured three adults in.)

There was a big corn-toss tournament (a game where you toss bean-bags and try to get them in a hole on a board). Steven and Jenna came in first, with Rebekah and Matthew three points behind.

After the reunion things settled down and we enjoyed Jennifer and Steve to our hearts content for the rest of the week.

One day, all of the daughters got together for a mother-daughter event: Laura with her daughter Kelsie, Jennifer with Katelyn, Rebekah, Mom, and myself. We went out to Cracker Barrel for lunch, and then hit two thrift-stores. We had a grand time.

Meanwhile, back home, all the boys at home went fishing: Matthew, Caleb, Timothy, Joshua, and Ethan. Dad and Steve went along to have fun and help the four younger ones with worms, hooks, tangled lines, and the occasional and rare fish.

Caleb caught a huge bass with a mysterious lure he found floating near the rocks. After he had caught the fish, he cast out with his lure again, and when he pulled his line out of the water, the lure was gone. 'The mysterious lure' and Caleb's fish were the topic of discussion for the next few days, especially as we ate the delicious fish, cooked to perfection by Mom.

After seven days of so much fun we were all ready to drop from exhaustion, the relatives left. Though parting with them is always sad, we were all ready to go our separate ways and get back to the routine of life. Matthew remarked after-words that sleeping in one's own bed again was simply delightful. . . .

The Weekly Bible Verse

James 1:12: Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

David: A Man After God's Own Heart

By Rachel Aardsma

Part 3.

After Samuel left, David's family seemed to recover their equilibrium.

"Oh, my son, my dear son!" cried Jesse, giving David the first hug that David ever remember receiving from his usually busy and absent father.

"Just think! You are king!" Jesse gave David another hug and then held him off to observe him.

"Ah, David, I always knew you had it in you to become great someday." David hid a smile, and replied solemnly,

"Thank you, Father." His father had never been truly unkind to him, but he had often let David know in no few words that he would never rise above being a shepherd. In Jesse's former opinion, David had neither the 'brains' nor the 'brawn' to become anything other than a shepherd. Now, however, his opinion seemed altered.

"Of course, I always knew he was an unusual boy," Shammah, one of David's brothers, spoke up proudly. "You know how I've always said he was the smartest lad I ever saw." The others quickly nodded at this statement, and some began to reel off tales of David's smartness and how they had always seen that he would be someone great someday. All David did was smile. His brothers were not normally unkind, but sometimes they could be really, truly, purposefully mean to him. But then, David reflected, being the youngest of eight boys did put you in the position to be stepped on and pushed around a great deal, didn't it? But who cared about things like that anymore? Past happenings were nothing. All that mattered now was that the Lord was on his side, and would help him with everything that came up. And that included over-looking his brother's lack of kindness. David knew that God would help him. He could feel it. Ever since he had been anointed, there had been a strange power inside him. David knew such power could come from no one but God.



A Word About The Weather



This week has been unusually warm. Indian Summer keeps on, and we are all enjoying the lovely weather!



Never tell a kid something you do not want them to remember.