



KIDS

weekly devotional



verse

Psalm 46:1

“God is our refuge and strength, an
ever-present help in times of trouble.”





Benjamin was struggling in school and had been for a long time. He just figured he wasn't very smart, but then his mom took him to a doctor who said he had something called dyslexia.

"I don't even know what that is," said Benjamin. "I have something that I can't even spell. I have something I don't even know how to say. What is wrong with me?"

Jessica knew that her friend Benny, she always called him Benny, had been having a hard time at school ever since kindergarten. She never knew what was wrong, but she always prayed for him.

One of her regular prayers was to ask God to show Benjamin's parents what was causing all his problems with reading and writing and math.

"You know something, Benny," asked Jessica. "This is the answer to something I've been praying about for a long time."

"What, that I would have 'da silly yak disease' or is it 'duck saliva syndrome' or . . . I don't even know what it is," he said, getting more frustrated every time he tried to say the word.

"It's pronounced 'dis-lex-ee-ah', she said.

"Oh great, you don't have it and you know how to say it," said Benjamin. "I must really be dumb."

"You are not dumb at all," she said. "My uncle has it, so I learned how to pronounce it from him. Otherwise I couldn't say it either."

"Well, if I'm not dumb, then why can't I read," he asked.



point

Jessica knew that dyslexia had nothing to do with how smart a person was. It's just this thing that mixes stuff up in the brain, like letters and numbers.

"Have you ever asked God to help you understand what is going on in your brain and how you can make things work," asked Jessica.

"I wouldn't even know what to ask Him to do," said Benjamin. "I mean, I don't know what dys . . dys . . I don't even know what it I got, so how can I ask for help."


"Benny, God says that He is always with us, even in times of trouble," said Jessica. "and this is kind of a time of trouble, don't you think?"

"Yeah, it stinks," said Benjamin.

"Well, God says He is our strength and our fortress," said Jessica. "Do you know what that means?"

"Not really," said Benjamin. "I remember Pastor Danny talking about it once. He said that when things are really hard, we can always go to God."

Jessica remembered the day in kids church Benjamin was talking about. Pastor Danny was teaching from Psalms 46:1.





point

"Benny, you can learn to read even with dyslexia," she said. "I think we need to pray and ask God to get you the right teacher to show you how to do it."

She told him that once he mastered reading, he could do almost anything - math, science, history, spelling - at school.

"If you really think God can show me how to be stronger than this dyslexia thing, I'm game," he said. "Let's do it."

"He can help, and He will help," said Jessica.





Lesson



When God says He is our refuge, He is telling that we can go to Him the same way we would go to a storm shelter during a tornado or hurricane. His strength can help us be strong even when we feel weak. That is how Benjamin felt. Everyone else could read and write and do math, and it made him feel weak. But Jessica kept praying and Benjamin's parents finally learned what was happening in their son's brain. God answered her prayers and now Benjamin could get the help he needed to do all the things the other kids could do. God is always there to help, no matter what kind of problem you are having. Jessica trusted God and that helped Benjamin trust God. You can do the same by praying for your friends.





prayer



God, please help each of us to pray for our friends and neighbors. Show us who we need to be praying for and how we can pray for them. You are our shelter and our strength, even in the storms of life. We thank you for taking care of us and ask that you do the same for the people we love.

