



KIDS

weekly devotional



verse

1 Chronicles 16:1

Look to the LORD and his strength; seek
his face always





As Jacob was walking home from school, he bumped into Mrs. Marshall, his grandmother's best friend and a person everyone called a "prayer warrior". He didn't know what that meant but thought it must be something pretty powerful. After all, aren't warriors supposed to be tough.

"How are you doing today, Jacob," she asked before going into Johnson's Market. "I've been praying for you to make good choices. I think God has been answering those prayers. You are a good boy, Jacob."

He had no idea why she would be praying for him and wasn't even sure he liked it. He had no idea what good choices she was talking about. Instead of asking her what she meant by "good choices", he just said good-bye.

Just as Mrs. Marshall walked into the store, Christa, one of his best friends from school, joined him outside Johnson's front door.

"Hey, I'm glad I found you," she said. "You want to go to the movies with some of us tomorrow afternoon."

"Yeah, maybe," he said. "Hey, Christa, you know Mrs. Marshall, right?"

"Of course, everyone knows her, silly," said Christa. "We all love her. You know, she's a prayer warrior, always praying for everybody, and who doesn't like that?"

Jacob wasn't so sure he did like it. Maybe he didn't want her praying for him. Maybe he wanted to pray for himself, or maybe he didn't want to pray at all. It was his choice, not Mrs. Marshall's.

The logo for 'devo' features the word in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font with a slight 3D effect. It is centered over a large cyan circle, which is partially overlapped by a smaller purple circle below it. The background is a dark blue gradient with a colorful, abstract brushstroke pattern at the top and bottom edges.

devo

“What if someone doesn’t want her praying for them,” said Jacob. “I mean, maybe I don’t want a prayer warrior like her praying for me. I can talk to God myself.”

“Why wouldn’t you want someone like Mrs. Marshall praying for you, Jacob,” she asked.


“It’s like she’s spying on me,” he said. “Or snooping into my life. Like she wants God to tell her all my secrets.”

“You have a good imagination,” said Christa. “God doesn’t work like that.”

Jacob knew Christa was right, but he was still bothered about Mrs. Marshall and how everyone called her a “prayer warrior”. It was almost scary; like she had super powers.

“What’s really wrong, Jacob,” asked Christa. “It can’t be about Mrs. Marshall praying for you. No one gets upset about that.”

Jacob thought about it for a little while before answering. Even though she was his best friend and knew almost everything about him, he wasn’t sure he wanted to talk to her about this problem. You see, he was pretty sure he’d made a few bad choices not too long ago.

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point

"Christa, Mrs. Marshall said she's been praying for me to make good choices," he said. "Then she thanked God for answering her prayers. She said I do make good choices."

"You do," said Christa. "You always do the right thing."


"Dang it, Christa, no I don't," he said.

"What are you talking about," she asked.

So, Jacob broke down and told her about how Mr. Bachman, their fifth grade teach, had caught him cheating off of Billy Rogers' math test. He was caught red-handed but lied to his teacher and his mom. He told both of them that he was not cheating, but instead was just leaning over to tell Billy to stop cheating.

"I know it was wrong to cheat and to lie," he said. "And now I have to confess to my teacher, my mom and God. See what I mean? I made some bad choices, but Mrs. Marshall thinks I've been making good choices. She would be so disappointed."

"I don't think she would," said Christa. "I mean, look at you! You are all upset because of what you did, and now you are going to do the right thing. Those are good choices." Just then Mrs. Marshall came out of Johnson's and said hello to Christa and Jacob. "Oh, you two look very serious," she said. "Is everything all right?"





point



Jacob told her everything he did with the cheating and the lying and asked for her to pray for him. Then he said he was sorry and told her that he didn't want to let a real "prayer warrior" down.

"You didn't let me down," she said. "I told you I've been praying for you to make good choices and that God has been answering that prayer. Well, looks like He just answered it again. You're going to be alright, Jacob. God's looking after you."





Lesson



When Mrs. Marshall said God had answered her prayers, she wasn't saying that He answered them just once, but that He was answering them over and over again. In the verse, we are told to "look to the Lord for strength" and to "seek His face always." We will make mistakes, just like Jacob did, but we can go to God and ask for forgiveness and wisdom to not repeat the mistake. Jacob made a bad choice, but he was following it up with a very good choice to confess to God, his mom and his teacher. Remember, if you make a bad choice, look to God for strength, and He will help you do the right thing.





prayer



Father in Heaven help me to follow you and to seek you always. Keep me away from poor choices, but when I do make mistakes, show me how to make it all right. You are my strength, and you are my Savior and I want to always go to you when I mess up. I love you, Jesus, help me to be more like you. Amen.

