

## *Sidney's Nose*

Copyright © 2020 Robert K. Whitehead. All Rights Reserved.

"When are you going to learn?" asked Doctor Doobie. "Next time you might not be so lucky." And once again Doc patched Sidney's nose and sent him on his way.

Sidney is a big giant elephant. He smiles a lot and he laughs a lot. But Sidney has a problem. Sidney is curious, and he often does the wrong thing at the wrong time. Each time he does, he pays a painful price.

One time Sidney was teasing Bob and Betsy Bee. He thought it was fun, but the bees didn't think so. They became angry and buzzed-off for home. That didn't stop Sidney. He followed them to the hive, and continued his badgering.

"Enough is enough!" warned the bees. "Go away and leave us alone." And into the hive they flew.

Sidney started for home, then began to think. I wonder what's inside the hive? He went back, and in went his nose.

"Yaaaaa Hooooo!" roared Sidney with a mighty snort. "Fire! Fire! My nose is on fire!" And he raced for the pond.

You should have seen Sidney's nose. It looked like a giant red blowfish. It was big, puffy, and full of stingers. If only Sidney hadn't been curious the problem would never have happened.

Another time Sidney had an adventure with some pesky little mice. The mice claimed to have lost their cheese in Mrs. Beasley's basement. They asked Sidney to use his nose to find it. If he did, they would give him half the cheese. Now Sidney didn't care about the cheese, but he was curious about Mrs. Beasley's basement.

Sidney slipped his nose through the window and began to sniff. First one corner, then another, but nothing was there. Then he moved to the other side and .....

"EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE YIKES!!!!"

Sidney ripped his nose from the window and hopped wildly about the yard. His eyes bulged out, his face turned red, and he tossed and turned like a wild raging bull. What happened? Sidney had been trapped. Clamped firmly to his nose was a dangling mousetrap. The pain must have been awful, for Sidney trumpeted loudly as he thundered down the road to Doctor Doobie's. If only Sidney hadn't been curious the problem would never have happened.

Not long ago Sidney was strolling down the street when a wonderful smell passed `cross his nose. With each breath Sidney grew more and more curious until finally, he was out of control. The smell grabbed Sidney like a powerful magnet and pulled him along like an airplane pulling a banner. Suddenly, there it was. The smell was coming from Grandma Calico's cottage.

Sidney settled to the ground, walked to the door, and knocked. Nobody answered. He knocked again. Still no one answered. What was he to do? Sidney saw an open window, and in he looked. Nothing could be seen. What now? In went Sidney's nose, and that was a big mistake.

BANG! went the window. SQUASH! went his nose.

"Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaagh!" shrieked Sidney.

Sidney was stuck. He couldn't get in and he couldn't get out. All he could do was cling to the wall and hold on to the sash.

It was a long time before Grandma returned home, and when she did, she didn't offer Sidney any pie. But the worst was yet to come. Sidney had to wear his nose in a sling, and everyone laughed. It was very, very embarrassing. Poor Sidney. If only Sidney hadn't been curious the problem would never have happened.

Of all of Sidney's misadventures, his latest was the worst. Sidney went to Sugarbush Pond to swim and relax. It was a beautiful day, and he tanned to perfection. But late in the afternoon Sidney's curiosity again came into play. Something was lying in the shallow water among the reeds. It looked like an old hollow log. Was it? Sidney's had to see.

"Oooooooooooooooooouch! Ouch! Ouch! Ouch!"

Sidney jumped back, but it was too late.

Locked tightly to Sidney's nose was Arnold Alligator. Arnold, Sidney's best friend, had been hiding in hopes of catching some dinner. But all he caught was Sidney. It was another big mistake. Can you imagine Arnold's surprise when he realized what.... I mean whom.... he had caught?

Now there was a problem. Arnold's jaws were locked tight, and his mouth wouldn't open. Perhaps in a few days it might. But for now, Sidney would have to drag Arnold around on the end of his nose. And that would be awful. If only Sidney hadn't been curious the problem would never have happened.

I suppose it won't be long before Arnold is back in the pond and Sidney's nose is healed. But don't expect quiet for long. Sidney will soon be curious again, and his next misadventure will begin. If only Sidney would use his head his troubles would probably not happen. When is Sidney going to learn?

## A Message for You

Sidney isn't mean and Sidney isn't naughty, but he always seems to have a problem. Why? Because Sidney doesn't use good judgment and he doesn't make wise decisions when he is curious. So what should Sidney do? He needs to be careful when he is curious and he needs to think before he acts.

**Curiosity** is the desire to learn or know about things. Curiosity is not bad. But when one has a desire to know about things that are not one's business, then it can be bad. Sidney had a desire to know about things that were not his business. It got him in a lot of trouble. Curiosity also got a person in the Bible in a lot of trouble.

## Pillar of Salt

A long, long time ago in early Bible times there were two cities named Sodom and Gomorrah. The people were sinful and lived in ways that were not pleasing God. It made God angry, and he wanted to destroy the cities. But Abraham had compassion for Sodom and Gomorrah. He asked God to spare the cities if as few as ten people could be found that loved and obeyed God. Unfortunately, ten people could not be found that loved and obeyed God, so the cities were to be destroyed.

One day two angels secretly arrived to destroy the cities. As they entered Sodom they met a man named Lot. He didn't know their plan. Lot invited the angels to stay overnight at his house, and the angels accepted. But during the evening there was a problem. The men of Sodom knocked on Lot's door and wanted to harm the angels. Lot went outside to help, but it didn't work. The angels finally opened the door, pulled Lot inside, and blinded the men of Sodom. The angels and Lot were safe for the night because the men of Sodom couldn't see to harm them.

In the morning the angels urged Lot to take his wife and two daughters and leave the city. God had decided to be merciful to Lot. If they did not leave the city they would be destroyed with all the others. One of the angels said, "Flee for your lives! Don't look back, and don't stop anywhere in the plain! Flee to the mountains or you will be swept away" (Genesis 19:16)!

By the time Lot reached Zoar, the sun had risen over the land. Then the Lord rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah—from the Lord out of the heavens. Thus he overthrew those cities and the entire plain, including all those living in the cities—and also the vegetation in the land. But Lot's wife looked back, and she became a pillar of salt (Genesis 19:23-26).

Why did Lot's wife look back? Was she curious at what was happening or was she disobedient to God? I don't know. But she didn't do what she was supposed to and it cost her her life.

When God speaks to us we need to listen. When God tells us to do something we need to do it. And we need to be careful not to act on our own and let curiosity get us into trouble.

### **Think about This**

When you have a desire to learn and know about things—to be curious—first, think if it's the right thing to do. If you are not sure, ask your parents, your pastor or your teacher. If they are not there, ask God. "If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him" (James 1:5).

### **Remember This**

Here is a special verse from the Bible that will help you make wise decisions, especially when you are curious.

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding" (Psalm 111:10).