

For Families with Kids Ages 4 to 12

"Oh, no!" exclaimed Dad as the car slid off the road and into a snow bank. The wind was strong, the snow was deep, and they were stuck!

Dad stepped on the gas pedal and tried to rock the car forward and then back. Nothing happened. So Mom got behind the wheel, and Dad, Olivia, and Nina tried to push it free. But it was stuck tight.

"Last winter I bought a shovel to keep in the trunk in case something like this happened," Dad muttered as they got back into the car, "but then we had such a mild winter that I never needed it. Last spring I put it in the basement, and it's still there." He sighed as Mom handed him the cell phone. "I'm afraid we'll have to wait quite a while before help can get here." Dad flicked on the emergency flashing lights.

Dad was right. It seemed like a very long time before help arrived, but eventually they were back on the road. "When we get home, I'm putting that shovel in the trunk first thing," declared Dad when they were finally on their way. "And . . . while we were waiting, I was thinking about how important it is to be prepared. I was wondering how spiritually prepared we would be for a storm of problems."

"A storm of problems?" Olivia asked.

"Yes. Think about this," said Dad with a smile. "Up to now, the winter has been mild, so I didn't bother to pack a shovel. And when things in life are going smoothly, we often think we don't need God or don't need to read His Word, right? But sooner or later we're going to be challenged-maybe with a snowstorm or maybe a storm of problems. In either case, we need to be prepared for stormy weather-a shovel for the snow, and God's Word for life's storms. We should all read at least a few verses from the Bible each day. We need God's Word in our hearts and in our memories."

"Yes, and it won't take any longer to read a few verses than it will to get the shovel from the basement and put it in the car," Mom added.

"Well, the day isn't done yet," said Nina. "When we get home, we'll still have time to read some verses-unless we get stuck in the snow again!"

HOW ABOUT YOU?

Are you preparing for whatever may happen in life? There will be many happy times when verses of praise and thanksgiving express the way you feel. But problems will come, too, and you'll find comfort and encouragement in God's Word. Don't wait until then to begin reading it. Read your Bible now-and learn verses, too-so you'll be ready for both good and bad times that come your way.

TODAY'S KEY VERSE:

Unless Your law had been my delight, I would then have perished in my affliction.
Psalm 119:92

From CBH Ministries Keys for Kids

