

## **The Hero** -Ryan Parsons-

In case you didn't already know it, I'm a dad! It is hard to admit, but parenting is one of the hardest jobs I have ever done. Like you, I love my kids, and I don't want them to hurt or struggle. I am unsure of how many times I have told my boys what "not" to do because I don't want them to endure the heartache associated with the bad choice.

Once upon a time when Jacob was 5 year old, he got a special package in the mail. Inside was a cool toy glider. After he and I put it together, his mother and I told him to keep it safe from his little brothers, or it would get torn up. We specifically implored him to keep his bedroom door closed and to leave the plane on top of his dresser. The very next day, we heard the cries of a lamenting 5 year old. Broken hearted, Jacob wept as he held out his mangled plane. Sure enough, he had left it on the floor behind an open door. His little brothers had destroyed his treasure because he failed to follow our directions. All he could do was cry out, "Daddy, Daddy, Daddy." It broke my heart. He was so sorry that he hadn't followed our instructions.

A few days after that, Jacob had to learn this lesson all over again. This time, he was wiggling a loose tooth. Hoping that it would finally come out he ran into the bathroom. His mother and I strongly urged him to put the sink stopper down so that he didn't lose his tooth down the sink. After a few wiggles, the tooth came out. However, he hadn't put the stopper down, and the tooth plunged down the drain. Again, he was distraught. He knew he had failed to listen and believed he would never see his tooth again. Crying and remorseful, again he cried out, "Daddy, Daddy, Daddy."

Kids make mistakes...lots of mistakes! BUT, most of them are completely repairable. Actually, Jacob had set me up to teach him one of the greatest lessons of all. On the first occasion, I took the mangled plane, found a shoebox, traced a new wing and cut it out. As I put it together, he realized what I was doing. The repaired plane flew even better than before and was fixed like new. Jacob oozed with joy and thankfulness. When his tooth went down the drain, I slipped into the bathroom, shut the door and pulled the stopper and trap from under the sink. After a few seconds, I held his tooth in my hand. I walked up to him and handed him the tooth. He beamed with joy and hugged me. I got to be the hero!

It isn't any different for the children of God. We do the things that God asks us not to do. He asks us for our own good, but we frequently stumble. When we realize our fault and cry out repentant, "Father, Father, Father!" he is able to heal us and make us whole again. The funny thing is, what looks impossible is actually quite possible for God. Addictions, pride, lust, anger, sexual immorality, apathy, idolatry, greed...all of our sins are ALL fixable by God through the blood of Jesus Christ. I can't tell you how many times He has helped me. God is my Father and my Hero!

How has he helped you? Please take some time to share that with someone this week.