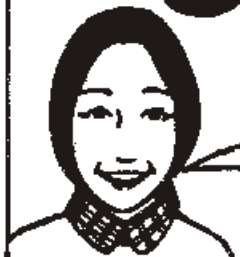


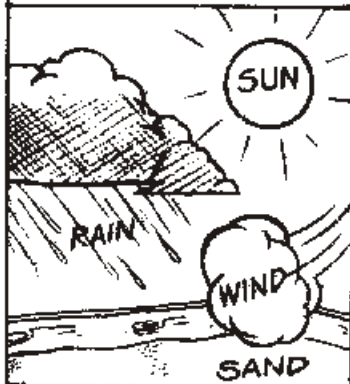
THE SANDBOX!

--Never
Borrow
Without
Asking!



Hello, children! This is Auntie Sara with another exciting "Life With Grandpa" story! This one is called "The Sandbox"! When David was very small, we used to have a sandbox in our yard for him to play in! Sandboxes are easy to make and were quite fun and clean to play in, because we weren't living in the Tropix then!

The sand was kept clean by the wind, sun and the rain...

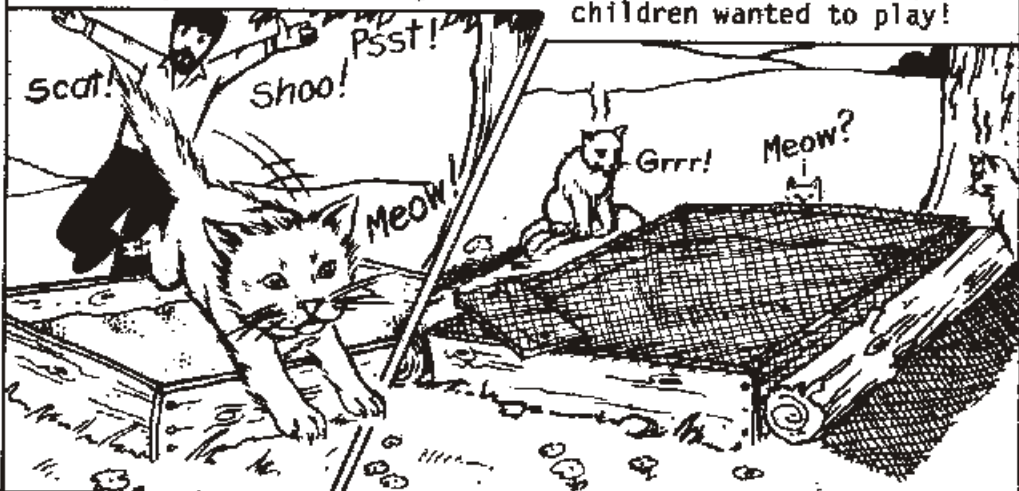


...so it was never very dirty for children to play with, even if they added water & made sand pies!



Have fun, David! But please don't eat or throw the sand around!

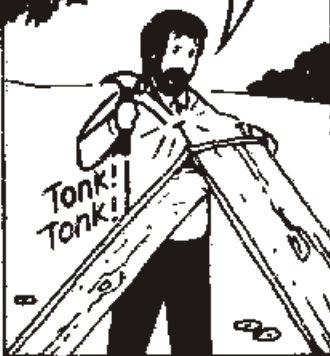
But watch out for cats in your neighbourhood! They might want to use your sandbox to go potty! We covered our sandbox with screening nailed to a log that can be rolled back when the children wanted to play!



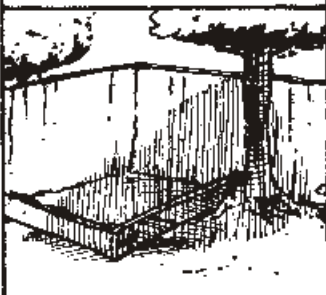
Sandboxes are quite easy to make! The simplest way is to take two pieces of wood like these...



...and then hammer them together like this!



Then you can fix them up against a corner in the yard!

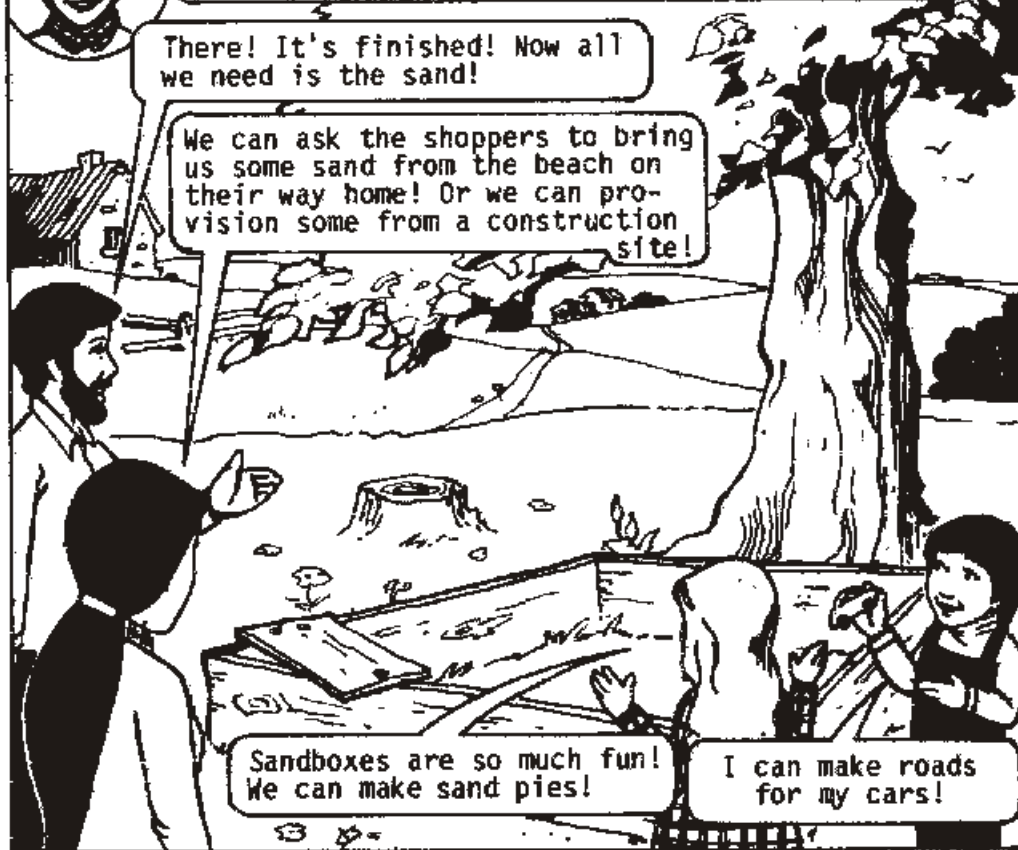


A good place is under a shady tree!

So when we moved to the farm, we made a new sandbox for the children, and put it under the chestnut tree!

There! It's finished! Now all we need is the sand!

We can ask the shoppers to bring us some sand from the beach on their way home! Or we can provision some from a construction site!



Sandboxes are so much fun! We can make sand pies!

I can make roads for my cars!



Now I'd like to share with you the lesson that we learned about the way we tried to get our sand! I think I should be the one to tell this story, as it was really my fault that the whole thing happened!:

Oh, look! Uncle Alf is back from shopping! Maybe he brought the sand!



Did you have time to go to the beach, Daddy?



No, I'm sorry, children! We were just too busy! We'll see if we can get it tomorrow!

Lord help us! It's so hard to be patient!



Well, children, maybe we can take some buckets with us by faith when we go for our walk this afternoon!

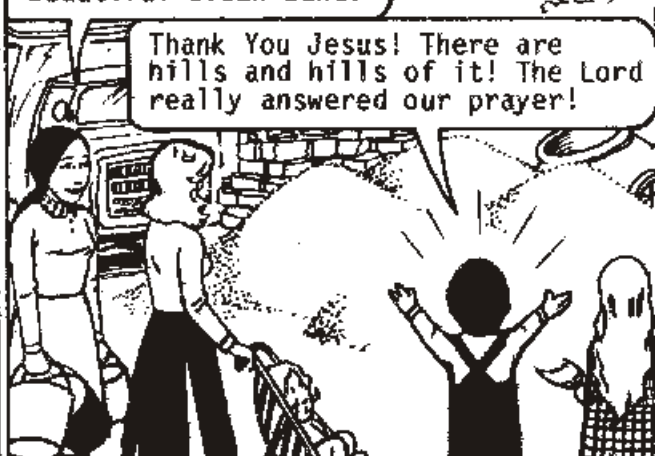


Yes! There's a construction site just down the road!

Let's pray that we'll find some sand there!

That afternoon--

Look! It's a miracle! There's a big pile of beautiful clean sand!



Thank You Jesus! There are hills and hills of it! The Lord really answered our prayer!

Let's see if there are any workers around, so we can ask them for some of it!

HELLO! IS ANYBODY THERE?

It doesn't look like there is anybody around!

Well, praise the Lord! God's delays are not denials! We'll just have to come back again tomorrow!

SIGH!

A few days later--

When do you think we'll ever be able to finish our sandbox project, Auntie Sara?

Isn't it a shame! Our sandbox is still empty, when all that nice clean sand is so close by!

Well, children, I have an idea! Let's take the buckets with us again today, and if the workers are still not there, we'll just go ahead by faith and "provision" the sand anyway!

Well, the boys haven't been able to get to the beach yet, and the workmen never seem to be at the construction site!

Just a couple of buckets full is all we need to at least get it started!

Yes, they have so much sand, they surely wouldn't miss two buckets full!

I'm sure it will be all right, but we could get in trouble if we take the sand without asking! We had better pray and put it in the Lord's hands!

All right, children, we're ready to go, so let's pray!

Please, Lord, if it's not Your will for us to take the sand, then stop us in some way.



But please, Lord, don't let us get into any kind of trouble!



So off we went, Dora, David, Davida and myself, along with little Tech in the stroller to "provision" the sand.

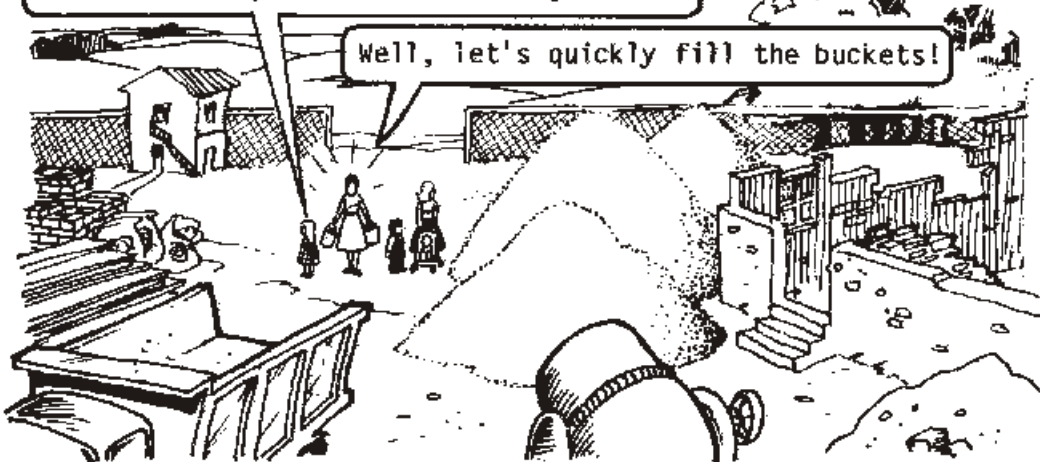


Look! There's the sandpile!



I don't see any workers here today either!

Well, let's quickly fill the buckets!



Quickly!

Oh, Lord, I hope it's all right to do this!



I'll try, but my little spade is not so big!

There! They're full! What shall we do with them now, Auntie Sara?



We'll take them with us on our walk!

Oh, my! They're so heavy! We'll never be able to carry them around on our walk!



Let's leave them behind these bricks! We'll pick them up on our way home!



And so we continued our walk through the neighbourhood! We were gone for quite a long while. Then on our way back we stopped to pick up our buckets!

But...

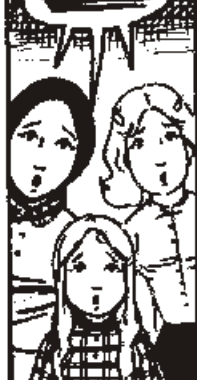
Auntie Sara, didn't we leave the buckets behind these bricks?

Yes, we did!

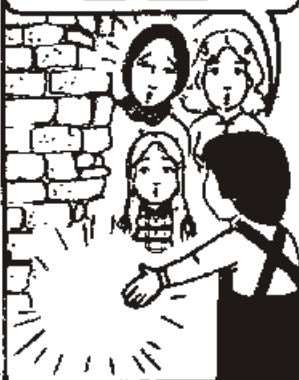


Well, they're gone!

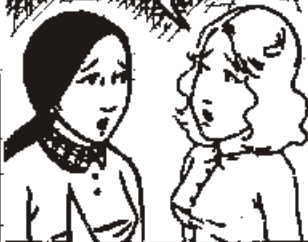
GONE?



Yes, the buckets, shovels and sand are all gone!



Oh, dear! Maybe it wasn't the Lord's will that we took the sand!



Yes, I feel really convicted!

Oh no! We could get in serious trouble for **STEALING** the sand!



We'd better get out of here fast!

Let's go home quickly, children!



But what happened to the buckets?



Someone has obviously taken them!

Oh, my! Maybe it was the police that found them!



Oh, Lord, forgive me! Please help us to get home safely!



Oh, my! I can hear
a motorcycle coming
up behind us!

Oh, no!
Maybe it's
a policeman!

He might
stop and
question us!

What do I say
if he asks us
where we live?

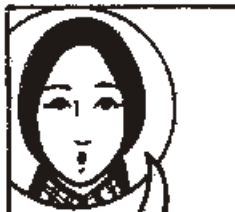
Grandpa's
security
is in
danger!

Oh, no! The
motorbike is
slowing down!
It must be
the police!

Oh, dear Jesus! I'm
so sorry we stole
the sand! Please
don't let the
police catch us!
Please help
Grandpa not to be
in any danger
because of my
silly mistake!

Bonjour,
Madame!

Oh, thank You Jesus! It wasn't the police!
Jesus, please forgive me for not having more
wisdom! I promise I'll never do anything so
unwise and dishonest again!



And so we hurried back home as fast as possible and told Grandpa everything that had happened!

I'm really sorry! I'd like to apologise to you and the children! I'm afraid that it was me who had the big idea that it might be okay to take the sand without asking!



Amen! You should have trusted the Lord for the sand and not have been in such a hurry! See, if the Enemy can get you impatient and in a hurry then he can make you make mistakes!

I hate to think how, if we had gotten caught, we could have endangered your security and the Lord's work!



I had a check from the very beginning that the Lord wasn't going to bless it!



Yes! I've always taught you to try to keep and obey the law! Don't do anything foolish that could get us all in trouble! Good security means doing all you can to avoid possible trouble!

Right! If God is not in it, it just won't work! Always pay attention to the checks of the Spirit and heed God's still small voice. When in doubt, don't!



And always remember that borrowing without asking is stealing! The Bible says, "Thou shalt not defraud thy neighbour, neither rob him!" (Lev.19:13)

You pay a big price if you get caught stealing, and you pay the price of fear and worry if you don't get caught!

Boy! I was sure worried when I thought that motorcycle was the police!



Well, praise the Lord, Honey! We all make mistakes! They're one way the Lord has of keeping us humble! Some of the best lessons we learn are through our mistakes, and today you've all learned a very good lesson about honesty!



It's amazing how the Lord answered our prayer! Before we left we prayed that if it was not His will, that He would somehow stop us from getting the sand, and from getting caught! And that's exactly what happened!

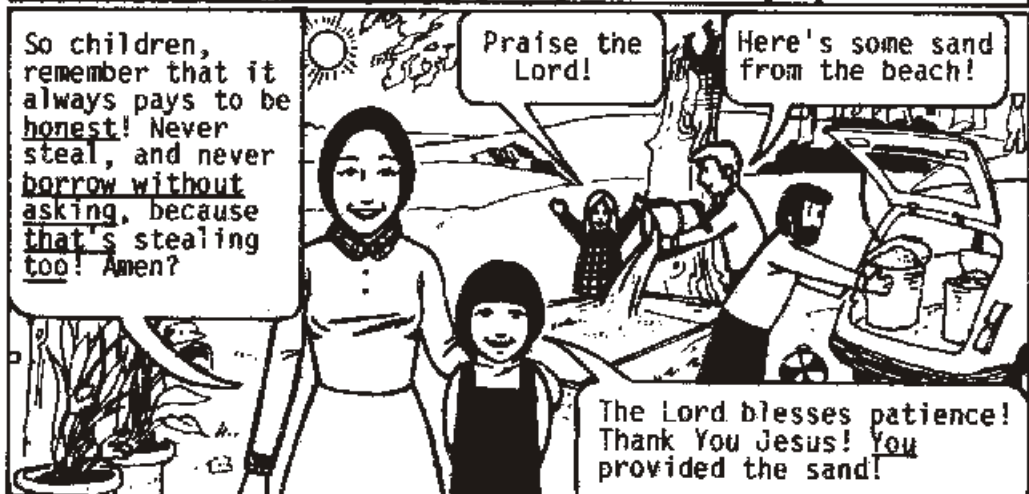
Amen! Praise the Lord! What a loving and merciful way of teaching us a good lesson! Praise the Lord!



So children, remember that it always pays to be honest! Never steal, and never borrow without asking, because that's stealing too! Amen?

Praise the Lord!

Here's some sand from the beach!



The Lord blesses patience! Thank You Jesus! You provided the sand!