

Logan's Leap of Faith

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Illustration heard in a sermon by Pastor Jeremy Mendoza

(Graphics below)

Mark 11:22 *Jesus said, "Have faith in God."*

Hebrews 11:6 *Without faith, it is impossible to please Him;.*

Third grade was now history for Logan. It was summer vacation at last! The first thing on his list of things to do was to put that annoying alarm clock away. As he placed the clock in the nightstand drawer, he reminded himself, *Mom always wakes me up for church.*

Things would be a little less rushed for a few months, which was fine with a curious boy who loved having the time to explore. Logan was looking forward to going fishing with his dad and having smores by the campfire. *Maybe we could go on another hike.* he thought. They always came home with stories of animal tracks and raspberry stains on their clothes when they found some wild berries to snack on. Logan found an old arrowhead one time on a hike. That souvenir is in his nightstand among other treasures.

The calendar on his bedroom wall told Logan that there were only three days before the family's camping trip. For a few weeks, Mom had been gathering some fun things to take. As Logan peeked inside the bag, he discovered cans of silly string and glow sticks. He liked to keep those close by at night. But there was something else in the sack. This year Mom got him some sparklers, too!

Wow, Mom! Sparklers! he said. *Thanks!*

We'll help you with those. Mom answered as she hugged him.

I can barely wait three more days! he said.

Just two more sleeps. Logan told himself. A big smile spread across the boy's face as he thought about last year's camping trip. One thing he really liked was story time around the campfire. Each night just before they zipped up the tent to rest, they sat around the campfire while Dad told a story, perfectly fitted for an eight-year-old with a great imagination. It was a fun time filled with giggles and glow sticks.

Finally, the long-awaited day arrived and before the sun came up, the family loaded the car with backpacks, fishing and camping gear and coolers filled with food. Mom made yummy taquitos for them to eat on the way to the campgrounds, which was about a three-hour drive.

Dad turned on his audio Bible app. and the family listened as a man read verses about faith in GOD.

What does it mean to have faith in GOD, Dad? Logan asked.

Well, son. Dad answered. *Having faith means that you can trust GOD even when you can't see what He's doing.* After a thoughtful pause, Dad asked- *How do we know that GOD can be trusted?*

Well, Logan began, *The Bible tells us that He's good, He loves us and is always with us to help us. Like when He helped David kill the bear-and a lion-and Goliath.*

That's right, son. Dad smiled. He didn't have to see GOD to know that He was with him. His confidence was in GOD.

Logan nodded as he took another bite of his taquito, recalling some lessons from Sunday School about God helping people. He thought about faith in GOD the rest of the ride.

What would I do if a bear tried to attack me? he wondered. Could I face an angry lion? He didn't have the answers to those questions yet, but he was thankful for his parents, who were always there to help him and give him yummy taquitos.

It was almost noon when they arrived at the campsite. The family thanked God for a safe trip and then Dad and Logan set up the tent and unloaded the supplies while Mom grabbed the food boxes and made a light lunch.

The week was filled with swimming, fishing, hiking, mosquitoes, eating outside and listening to Dad's awesome stories. Each night, with sparklers in hand, the family sat by the fire as Dad told a story about how to be a light in the dark. To Logan's relief, he never had to face a bear or an angry lion while they were camping.

All too soon, the week was over. The car was loaded with musty-smelling clothes and a sun-burned, tired boy who slept most of the way home.

Dad noticed dark clouds rolling in and the wind picking up as they got closer to home. By the time they pulled into their driveway, a storm was in full force. The car was parked in the garage and Logan and his parents made it safely inside.

The car can be unloaded later, Dad decided.

Logan went upstairs to place his camping treasures in his drawer when, out of nowhere, a big bolt of lightning flashed. It was such a powerful strike that the house went dark. Little did anyone know that the lightning had sparked a fire on the roof. It was almost ten minutes before Mom smelled smoke.

Fire! she screamed, as she looked out the kitchen window and saw the bellowing clouds of smoke.

Immediately Dad thought of his son who was upstairs. The heat and smoke were so intense that Dad couldn't get up the stairs. Mom ran outside and called 9-1-1- and Dad ran and stood underneath Logan's bedroom window where he saw Logan trying to open the window.

Son, raise the window and jump! I'll catch you. I promise. Dad shouted below.

He got the window up enough to get through, but his eyes were burning from the thick smoke that was quickly filling the house. Logan heard his dad telling him to jump but he couldn't see him.

But, Dad, I can't see you. he said between coughs.

Logan, I'm right here below the window. JUMP! I'll catch you. I can see you! There was urgency in Dad's voice.

With bravery beyond his years, Logan crawled out the window and leaped with all his might. He landed right into the arms of his faithful father and was quickly whisked to safety.

The sirens from the firetrucks announced their arrival. Medics checked Logan to make sure he wasn't harmed by the fire or the fall. He was given a few minutes of oxygen but other

than that, he was fine. The fire was finally out, and the trucks returned to the station. What remained was a wet mess .. and a thankful family.

Family, friends and neighbors came to help. Many gave clothes, or money to get what they needed. Logan was happy to know that they would be staying with Grandpa and Grandma until their house was repaired.

A few days later, Dad, Mom and Logan went to the house to see if anything survived the fire. They were relieved to find that most of the family photos were ok and none of Dad's tools were damaged. Logan darted up the charred stairs and went straight to his room. Everything was covered with so much black soot that he could write on the walls with his finger. He gasped when he saw that one wall was completely gone.

Thank You, GOD, for helping me. he whispered. He made his way over to the nightstand and opened the drawer. There they were, his little earthly treasures, unharmed, sitting underneath his alarm clock.

Dad followed close behind and watched his son pull out his treasures.

You OK, son? He asked.

Yeah. Logan replied. *God was with us; right, Dad?*

Yes, He was son. He's as good as His Word. He told us that He would never leave us. Dad said. *Your mom and I prayed that GOD would give you the courage to jump.*

I prayed, too, Dad. Logan said quietly. *And, Dad, you were right there to catch me, just like you promised.* he said as he reached over to give his dad a hug. *I couldn't see you, but you were there. Kinda' like GOD, right, Dad?*

Atta' boy, son. It was just like GOD.

A few weeks before his ninth birthday, Logan heard his pastor read from the Book of Romans. When he heard verse thirteen, it was clear what he needed to do- ask Jesus to save him from his sins. And that's what he did. Right there beside his dad and mom, in the church pew. Logan was confident that when he prayed, GOD would forgive him and save him, because *God is as good as His Word.* Everyone rejoiced when he told them after church what had happened in his heart.

Invitation-

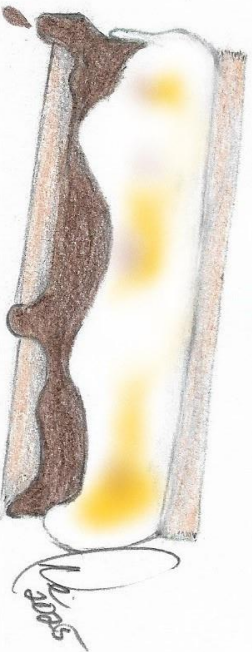
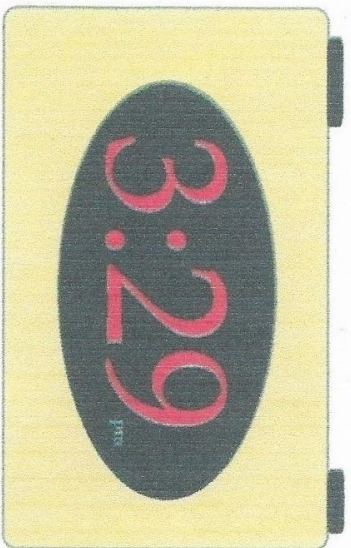
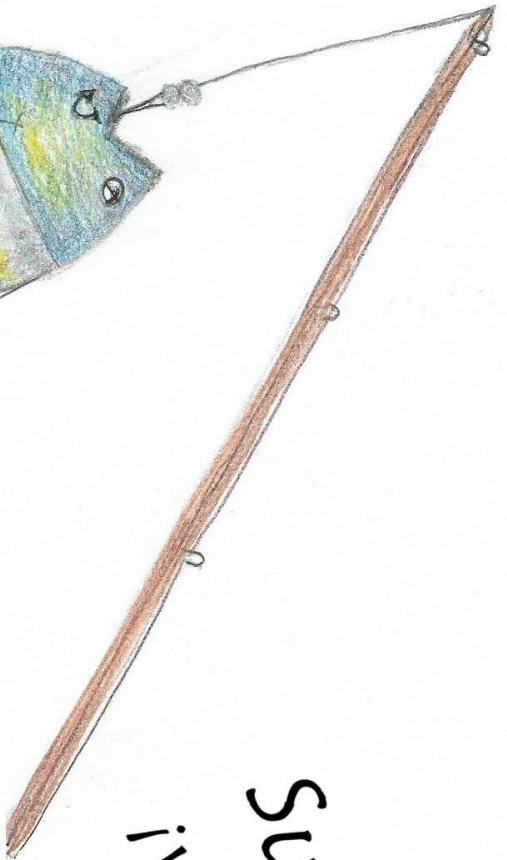
Has there been a time in your life when you knew that GOD helped you? (Give time for response) The greatest help that GOD gave us was when He saw how sinful mankind is, yet He still loved us. He showed His love for us when He paid the cost for us to be able to be with Him in Heaven one day. What did it cost Him? (Give time for response.) Have you, by faith, accepted this priceless gift? You can do it now if you haven't. If you have JESUS as your Savior, remember-He will never leave you. You can talk with Him anytime. He never sleeps or is too busy to answer.

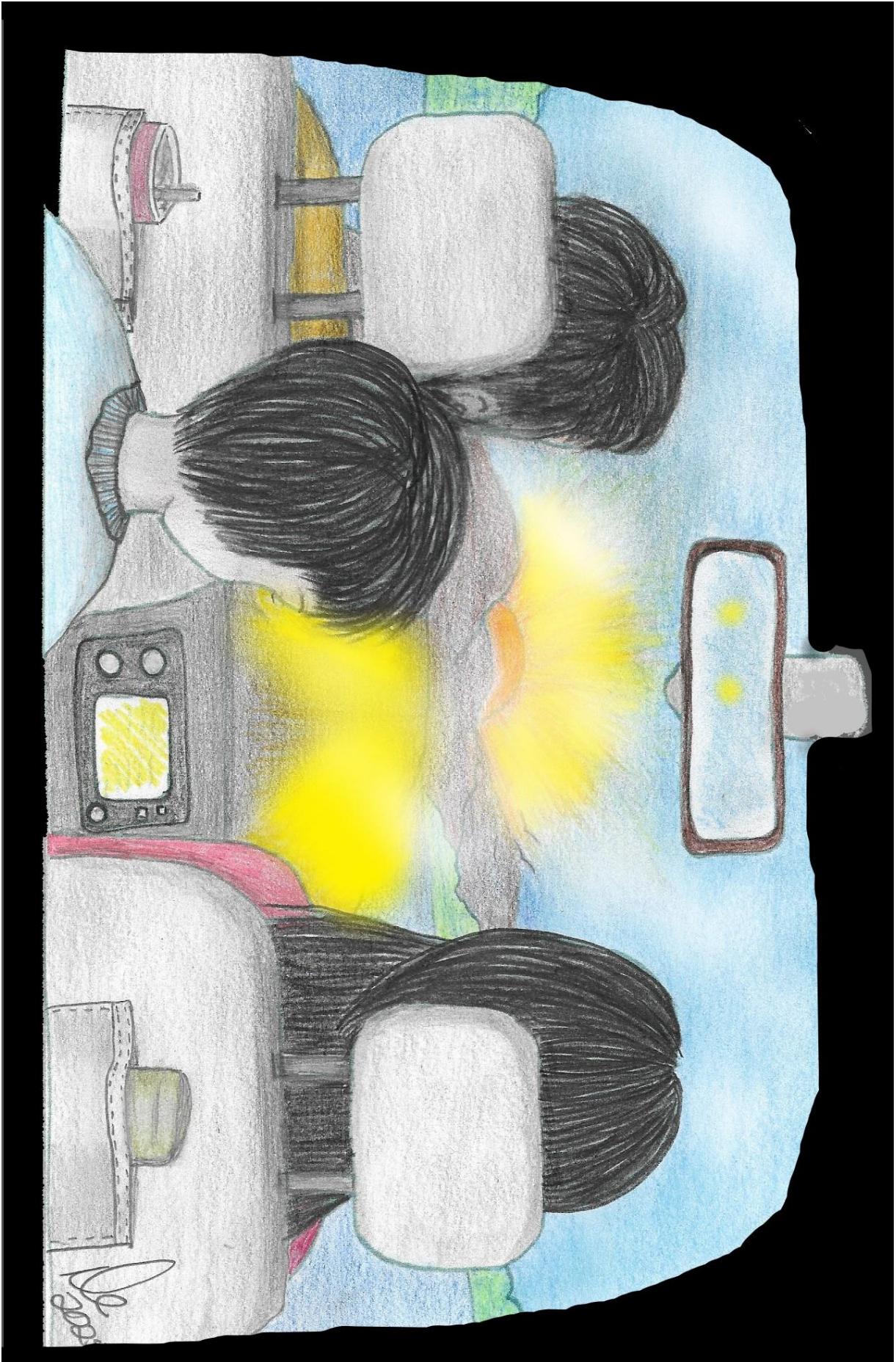
Romans 10:13 *Whosoever shall call upon the name of The Lord shall be saved.*

Romans 10:17 *So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of GOD.*

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Summer vacation!
¡Vacaciones de verano!





*So then faith cometh by hearing
and hearing by the word of God,*

Romans 10:17

*Luego la fe es por el oir;
y el oir por la palabra de Dios.*

Romanos 10:17

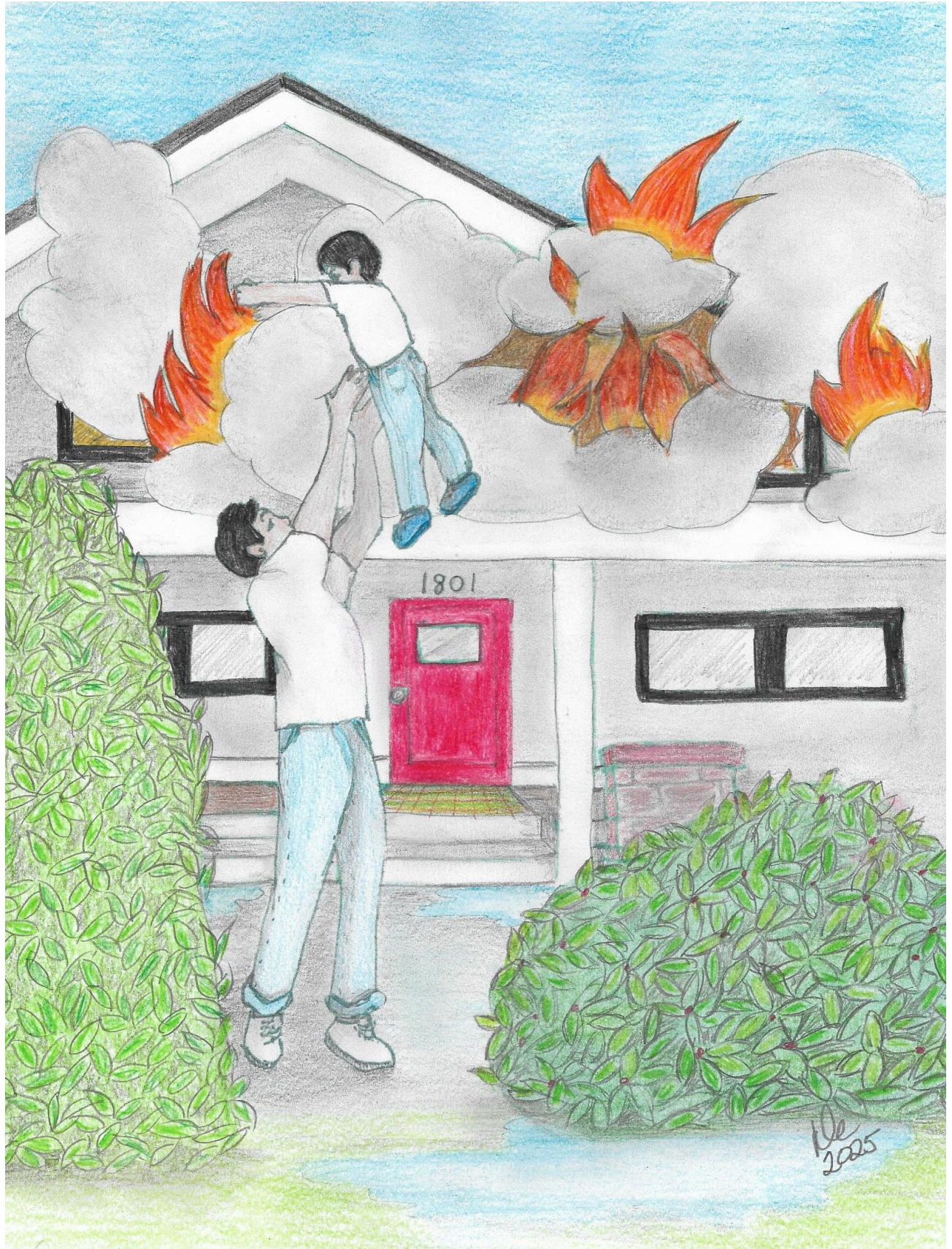


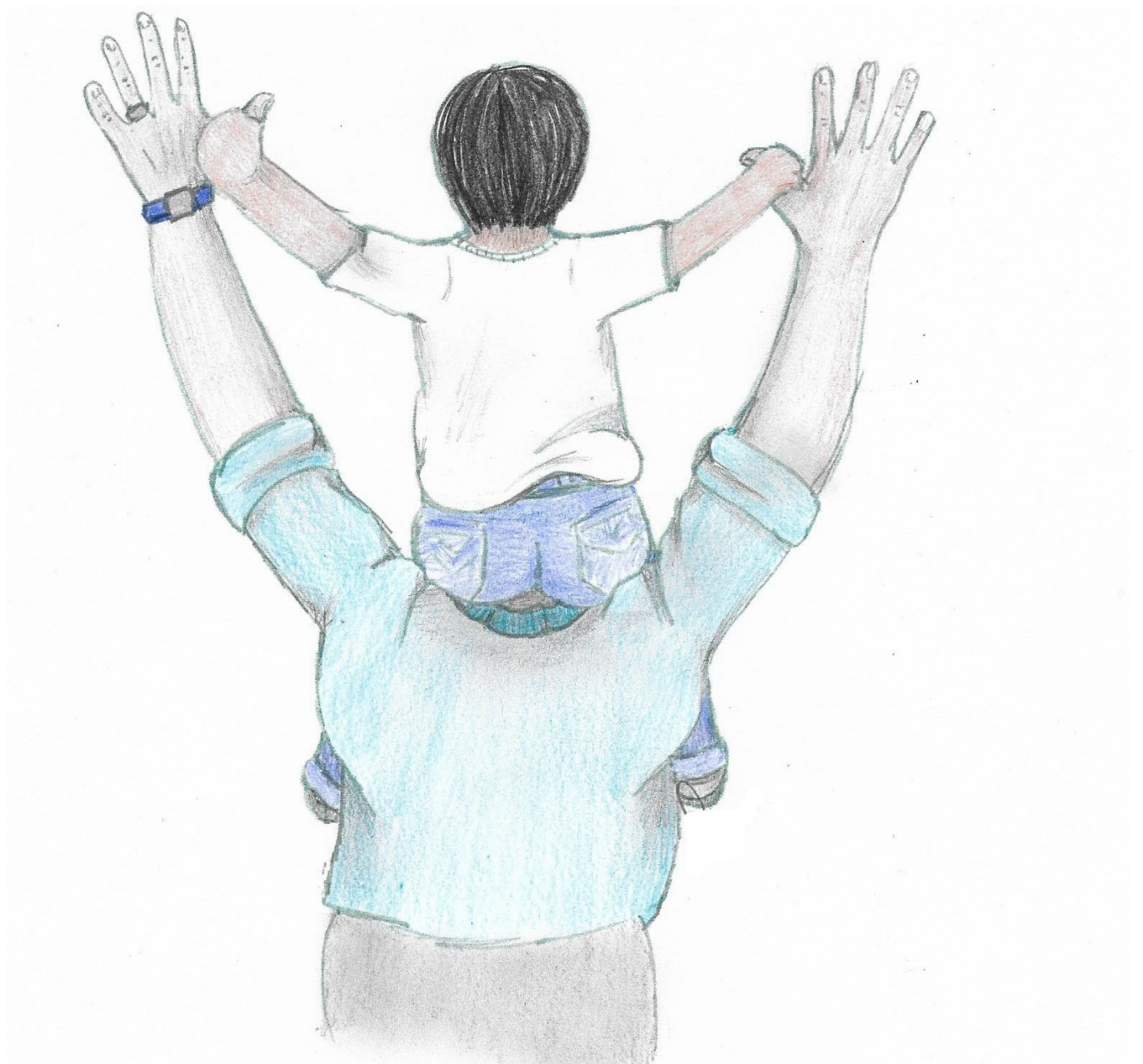
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*But without faith it is impossible
to please Him..*

Hebrews 11:6



*Empero sin fe es imposible
agradar á Dios;*

Hebreos 11:6

***Do you have faith?
Itienes, fe?***



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