

A STORY OF STONES

By: Steven Doornbos

Copyright 2008

Kyle was beginning to think that he was never going to get home. He felt like he had walked for hours and the sun was starting to go down behind the hills. It was sort of scary, but not so much that he was going to start crying or anything. After all, he was nine years old now and nine year old boys just didn't cry... no matter what.

The coat that he was wearing was warm enough to keep out the wind but inside Kyle was still shivering a little bit. He didn't really know why. He just couldn't make himself stop. It was getting really dark and he didn't know quite what to do. His dad had always told him that if he ever believed that he was lost that the best thing to do was to stay put and let other people come to you and maybe it was time he found somewhere to do just that. He could hardly see what was in front of him now that the sun had completely gone down. Kyle thought of his dad and mom sitting at home waiting for him to get home from school and he knew that they would be worried sick by now because he had not arrived on time like he was supposed to.

Leaving school every day by himself was boring so today Kyle thought to himself that he would do a little exploring on the way home. Sure he knew that he wasn't supposed to, but he was old enough, he thought, to take care of himself and make some decisions. He turned left into the grasslands instead of turning right toward his home. The grasslands had given way to trees and the trees turned into heavy forest. Before he realized it, he found that he really didn't know the way home. He was hungry and thirsty and missed his dad and mom a lot.

There was a little stream not far away. He decided that it would be a good place to stay for the night and let other people come and find him. There were plenty of pine branches around so he could make himself a little bed out of them and could even use them as covers to help keep warm. The little stream was inviting so Kyle sat near it and picked up some little stones and put them into his jacket pocket.

The moon was out now and that helped make it a little brighter out so he could see the area around him. It wasn't light enough though to be able to see his watch but he knew it was late and he was tired. After gathering some pine tree branches he was finally able to make a bed comfortable enough to lie down on without getting stuck by rocks and big sticks. Kyle put his head down and drifted off to sleep.

When you are sleeping in your nice warm bed and the morning sun shines in your eyes waking you up it is a little bit of a shock. When it happens while you are lost in the woods sleeping on pine branches it is a real big shock. It wakes you up really fast.

The water in the little stream was ice cold but it felt good when Kyle splashed some of it on his face to help himself wake up. He didn't dare drink any of it though because he was afraid he would get sick... but it sure was tempting. Hunger and thirst were a real issue by now. The last of the small candy bar he had in his jacket was gone. The only thing left was the small stones that he had collected the night before.

Kyle pulled out the little stones and examined them closely. Some of them were really rough and had sharp edges that dirt and sand had been caught in them. The other ones were smooth. He wondered how the stones that were smooth get the way? Did

something happen to them that had not happened to the rough ones? He thought to himself that he would ask his dad about this next time they were sitting around talking at the dinner table. Better not think of the dinner table right now, he thought, he was so very hungry.

There was a noise behind him and it made him jump. He heard it again. It was voices and he recognized one of them. It was his dad! Kyle yelled at the top of his voice and they heard him and came running. He knew that he was going to be in really big trouble and probably be grounded for life for this little trip he took but he didn't care right now. He was going home!

As it turned out Kyle really had not walked very far into the woods. In fact, within fifteen minutes, he and his father had reached the family truck and were headed home. Kyle's dad wasn't saying much but he could tell that he was really disappointed in him. His eyes looked sad. The only thing he said was that his mother was worried sick about him and would be really happy to see him back home and safe. He also said that he was glad Kyle was safe but that there would be a punishment for doing what he did.

Katie, Kyle's mom, was waiting on the front porch when they arrived home. She ran to the truck and gave Kyle a big hug and started crying. Kyle couldn't figure out why people cry when they are happy. It just didn't make any sense to him. But if that is what she wanted to do then it was okay with him. He whispered into her ear that he was really sorry and that he would never do anything like that again. She just hugged him tighter and said "I know, I know."

Kyle's mom was a great cook and made him his favorite breakfast as his welcome home meal. She cooked him bacon, not crispy, scrambled eggs and toast with simply tons of butter on it. "If you want more I'll cook you as much as you want" she said. It didn't take long before Kyle's stomach hurt from eating so much food but it was just too good to not eat every last crumb!

Friday was laundry day so Kyle took off all of the clothes he was wearing and put them in the laundry basket. He even put his coat in with the dirty clothes cause it had mud on it and smelled like pine trees. His mom took the clothes away to the laundry room and Kyle put on his play clothes so he could go outside later. That until his mom got back from the laundry room and told him that he wasn't going anywhere for a very long time. He was grounded, and until she and his father talked about it more in detail it was just the beginning of his punishment for making such a bad choice.

Kyle knew that complaining wouldn't have done any good so he went back to his room, took out one of his favorite books and began reading. The day passed quickly and soon it was dinnertime. His mom called to him to come to the table so he put down his book and slowly walked to the kitchen. He wasn't looking forward to this at all. His dad had come home from work and he had heard the two of them talking in whispers for a long time before dinner was ready. It was scary to even think about what was going to happen at the dinner table.

A lot of families that Kyle knew had lots of kids so dinnertime was always busy with laughter and conversation. Kyle though was the only child so when everyone sat down to eat it was just the three of them, nobody to distract his parents by other conversation and so on. Usually they talked about the day and what had happened to each one of them. Kyle's dad said that his day at work was quite busy but that he had been able to stay ahead in his work so he didn't have to work any overtime on the

Thank You for previewing this eBook

You can read the full version of this eBook in different formats:

- HTML (Free /Available to everyone)
- PDF / TXT (Available to V.I.P. members. Free Standard members can access up to 5 PDF/TXT eBooks per month each month)
- Epub & Mobipocket (Exclusive to V.I.P. members)

To download this full book, simply select the format you desire below

