



**GOD ANSWERS A PRAYER  
(Children's Story/Parable)**

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“Man it’s cold today! I sure wish I had worn the thick wool sweater my grandma knitted for me,” wailed Benjamin, as the cold wind sailed past his ears. “I didn’t realize that it would be so cold this evening. The temperature really dropped suddenly.”

“Yeah,” said Alex, “my mom told me to put on a heavier coat, but it didn’t feel this cold earlier, so I didn’t.”

Benjamin and Alex hurried down the street toward home as fast as they could, but they had to scurry around a long line of people at a building just two blocks from their homes. “Those people don’t look too happy, and their clothing looks pretty thin for this weather,” thought Benjamin. Then, as he caught a whiff of the soup being prepared nearby, he shouted, “Oh, that’s right! Mrs. Toms just opened her soup kitchen.”

As the guys hurried home to nice warm houses and hot meals, Benjamin couldn’t get that line of people out of his mind. The faces of those cold individuals waiting for hot soup just kept popping into his mind. He was reminded of the story of the good Samaritan. “What can I do?” he asked out loud. Benjamin decided to pray about it, because he knew that God always has the answer. “Lord, please tell me something that I can do to help those people. There were men, ladies, and even little children in that line. Please, let me help them somehow.

Benjamin didn’t hear an answer; however, Uncle Harry’s face kept flashing in his mind. “Why do I keep thinking about Uncle Harry?” he thought to himself. Then it hit him. Uncle Harry was the manager of the local thrift store, and he remembered Uncle Harry telling his dad that he had a pair of really nice coats. A company had gone out of business and had sold him a truck full of brand-new coats for men, women, and children. “What am I going to do with all the coats I already have?” asked Uncle Harry. “I have to make space for this new truck load, but these are really nice coats that I have right now. I don’t want to trash them,” he said.

In a flash Benjamin was out of the door, as he thanked God for answering his prayer, and he raced to Uncle Harry’s thrift store before it closed. “Uncle Harry! Uncle Harry!” he shouted, bursting in the front door. “I know what to do with the coats!” Listening to Benjamin’s idea, Uncle Harry once again marveled at how unselfish and caring his only nephew was. Having completed locking up his store, Uncle Harry and Benjamin got in his truck and headed for Mrs. Toms’ soup kitchen. Uncle Harry had already packed all the coats in the truck, hoping that someone could tell him what to do with them soon.

When Benjamin and Uncle Harry arrived at the soup kitchen, everyone who had been in the line was inside, enjoying the delicious soup Mr. Toms' wife had made for them. After speaking with Mr. Toms, Benjamin and Uncle Harry were shown a long table where they quickly arranged the coats from Uncle Harry's truck and invited everyone to come and help himself. You should've seen everyone's eyes light up, when they saw the coats! The boys and girls moved quickly toward the table, dragging their moms and dads behind them. There were enough coats for everyone, and everyone thanked Uncle Harry. "No, no, no!" yelled Uncle Harry, "You must thank my thoughtful nephew, Benjamin."

Do you or your family have some nice things that you don't really need anymore? There are many people in need who would be grateful to have them. Let's pray that God will show us who is in need and how we can help them. *[Offer a short prayer, or choose one or two children to pray.]*