



**THE GOSLING
(Children's Story)**

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Earlier this spring there was a mama goose. She was looking all over for a place to make a nest where would be safe to lay her eggs. Safe from foxes that could grab her eggs. Safe from birds that would peck her eggs. Safe from another goose who might try and take over her nest.

One day the mama goose found what she thought was the perfect place to make a nest that would be safe. It was safe from foxes and other ground animals; although it was not safe from birds. It was way up high on the roof of a building that had a grassy patch on it. It really seemed like a great place to spend the next several weeks while she hatched her egg.

Lovingly the mama goose plucked her feathers to make a nice soft nest in which to lay her eggs. She was very dedicated and sat and sat and sat on her egg. She sat in the sunshine when it got really hot and she panted with thirst. She sat in the pouring rain during thunder and lightning. She sat through the chilly evenings and early mornings. Once in a while she would go to find something to eat or drink, but she would hurry back because she didn't want anything to happen to her egg.

So there she sat, day after day, night after night for almost thirty days, until finally her egg started to quiver! It quivered, and rocked and little cracks appeared and soon a yellow, fluffy gosling made its way out of that shell. As soon as the gosling was ready, they made their way down from the high ledge that had kept the mama goose and her egg safe all those days.

Sadly, something happened to the mama goose. We don't know what, but the little baby goose was discovered wandering around all by itself. It was in great danger from other animals that prowled around. It was in great danger of wandering into the road where cars and trucks whizzed by at great speeds. It was even in danger from other geese that were attacking it since he was not from their "family."

But God was looking out for the baby goose and send a "shepherd" to gather him up. A kind lady was walking and noticed other recently hatched goslings attacking this one lonely baby goose. Since he was not from their family, they did not want him around. The lady was able to gather him up in a soft blanket and rescue him from the harm in which he found himself. The kind lady was able to take the gosling and feed him and take care of him until he was old enough to go out on his own and be able to take care of himself.

Do you know there are lots of people in this world that need rescuing, just like this baby gosling? Jesus has given us a job to help others in need. There could be all kinds of reasons why someone needs help. Perhaps a child is lost in the store. Or maybe a new family from another country has moved next door and needs a friend to share Jesus' love with them. Or it could be that we have a sibling that needs some help at school or home. Or maybe we could even raise some money for someone that might not have enough.

We don't have to be all grown up to do our part for Jesus. And we don't have to travel far or have lots of money. We can be a shepherd or helper right in our own community where we live, and play, and go to school. In Isaiah 40:11 we read, "He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young, (NIV)." Let's put a bookmark in our Bibles at this verse as a reminder to read it throughout the week. It will also serve as a reminder to keep our hearts and minds open so we can hear Jesus when He calls us to help someone in need.