



## SPECIAL NEEDS AWARENESS

April 25, 2015

### Children's Story/Parable: Threads of Humanity\*

*Read aloud the following scriptural passage: "These are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ: (Eph. 4:11, 12, NLT).*

*If available, show the children a piece of silk cloth. Download and/or print a picture of pictures of silk moths. Explain that the fabric of silk is produced by worms.*

In many parts of Asia there are silk farms, where the threads of silk are produced from silk worms. Then, in factories, these threads are woven into fabric. We are all part of the fiber of humanity, thread packed against thread to bring out the pattern of the fabric and make it a complete whole.

The process of producing silk and weaving it into cloth varies a bit, but the principles are the same.

A thread of silk is highly elastic—it stretches. Yet a thread of silk is stronger than a thin strip of the same size as some kinds of steel. Silk garments are very desirable because the material when dyed has a deeper, richer appearance than most other fabrics. That's why it is called the "queen of fibers." Silk irons easily and is somewhat wrinkle resistant. Today its chief uses are in clothing, upholstery, and curtains.

The female silk moth, measuring about two inches in length, lays from 300 to 500 eggs and dies soon after. Newly hatched silkworms satisfy their enormous appetites by eating fresh mulberry leaves. When fully grown they spin cocoons and enter the pupa or third stage of the life cycle. For cloth production cocoons are unwound, at the same time their long delicate fibers are drawn together. Next, these fibers are twisted into skeins. Boiling, dyeing, and weaving are the remaining processes.

As the colored silk is woven on machines into beautiful fabrics, it takes many threads, one upon another, to bring out the brilliant colorful designs. None by themselves are of significant value. Only as they are united is their beauty evident.

God's church requires order and unity as each member does his or her part. To every person God assigns a place and gives gifts. *Every person!* With head and heart blessed by God, the combined human threads make the body of Christ complete—His church. Where is your place? What is your gift?

*Eileen and Jay Lantry*

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\* Adapted, with permission from Eileen and Jay Lantry, *Stop Look and Listen* (Takoma Park, Md.: Review & Herald Publishing Association, 1976), p. 236.