

Seeking
True
Values



FAIR EXCHANGE

During the Civil War in the United States, many young boys were forced to serve in the army. Mennonites and members of other "peace" churches were faced with a crisis. How could their boys avoid going to war? The story "Fair Exchange" tells how the Brunk family met this situation.

Part One

"Someday the officers will come."

Mother Brunk said it quietly, never losing the easy rhythm of her knitting, yet it shattered the peace brooding over the big kitchen. Christly, lying on the hearth-rug doing sums on his slate with a squeaky slate pencil, felt as if a cold draft had hit him.

Father's face darkened and the hand that held the Bible shook a little. "Perhaps we had better speak of this alone, Hannah," he said quickly.

"No." Above the steady click, click, click of the knitting needles, Mother's voice was firm. "Someday the Confederate officers will come, and we must be prepared."

She looked affectionately at the tall son sitting opposite her, mending a broken harness strap. Martin's hands were deft and sure in their work with the stiff leather. He looked up, and his smile was a quick flash of white in his bronzed face.

"Never fear for me, Mother," he said cheerfully. "They may put a gun in my hand, but they cannot force me to shoot anyone with it. War is wrong in the sight of God, and I will have no part in it."

"We must not give anyone a chance to put a gun into your hand," Mother answered. Her knitting dropped into her lap as they all leaned closer to listen. "You know the cave we discovered when we went for nuts last fall? It is dry and well hidden, and tomorrow we must put food and warm blankets into it. You, Martin, will begin work in the farthest wood lot. Always, all day you must watch the attic window, but especially before you come home at night."

"But why, Mother?" Christly asked excitedly. "Why must Martin watch our attic window?"

"When the officers come looking for him, we will hang a white cloth there; one of the sheets, perhaps. When Martin sees the sheet, he will stay away from the house. If night comes he can sleep in the cave. When the danger is over we will take the signal down and he will know it is safe to come home."

"It is a good plan," Father said meditatively, "but it must be kept a secret from everyone. Perhaps it would have been better if the small son had not heard us speak of it." He looked at Christly as he spoke.

"It is better for us all to know," Mother answered. She drew Christly to her side and pushed his hair back from his face. "No one dare know of the cave, Christly—none of the children nor the men at the store nor even our friends at the church who think as we do. Secrets shared by few are the safest, and this is a very important secret, indeed. Do you understand?"

"Yes, Mother," Christly promised soberly. "I'll never mention it to anyone."

Christly stayed with Baby Peggy next day while his parents and Martin took warm blankets smelling of ce-

dar, sugared doughnuts, and crisp loaves of bread out to the cave. He watched the family activity wistfully, and was off at once when his mother finally said, "Martin is going alone this time. You may go with him, Son."

Christly felt prickly with importance as he trotted along behind his big brother, watching his strong arms swing the slab of bacon and pail of comb honey so easily. After a while they left the path and picked their way through rocks and briers until Christly was sure they were hopelessly lost. Just as he turned to remonstrate with Martin about going any further, he saw the slightly darker place in the green thicket that was the cave entrance.

"No one will ever find you here," Christly said with satisfaction as they stepped into the dusky interior. "What's under that?" he demanded as soon as his eyes had blinked into focus. He was pointing at Mother's soap kettle, placed upside down on the rock floor.

"We put the food under that to keep it away from prowling animals," Martin explained. "See," he added as he whisked up the kettle to add the bacon and honey to his little store.

"And why is this blanket hung inside the entrance?" Christly persisted. "The thicket will hide you well enough, won't it?"

"Not when I have a fire, and if I sleep here I must have one. I wouldn't care to have a bear sniffing my face some night." Martin grinned as he said it, but Christly shivered and was glad he wasn't in his brother's shoes.

The days slipped into weeks, while Martin worked in the farthest wood lot, chopping logs for the fireplace and chunk wood for the cookstove. Sometimes, while his ax

rang crisply in the still air, Christly piled the chunk wood into careful ranks. More often, he was kept busy helping Mother, carrying wood or water, hunting eggs, or taking care of Baby Peggy. Without meaning to, he kept watching the road. He saw troops, heads held high and muskets glistening in the sunlight, march past. He saw heavy wagons, loaded with ammunition and supplies, rumble by. Once an officer, his gray uniform gay with braid, made Christly's heart thump, but he rode on with never a glance in his direction.

One afternoon, the clatter of horses' hoofs at the front of the house brought Christly out on a run. He thought Father had returned from the mill, and would let him help unload the sacks of coarse meal. Instead of Father, he saw two soldiers in gray travel-worn uniforms tying their horses to the hitching post.

"Mother!" Christly gasped breathlessly as he ran into the house.

The look on his mother's face reminded Christly of his promise. It also steadied him, so that he could look calmly at the two men as they stepped into the kitchen. They were grim men; men who had faced death and dealt it on the battlefield. Not until they were asking his mother questions about Martin did Christly remember.

There was no warning signal in the attic window!

Thinking It Over

1. Why would the confederate soldiers come to see Martin? Why wouldn't he go with them?
2. What was Mother's plan so Martin would not be found by the soldiers?
3. Why did Christly's heart sometimes thump when he looked out at the road that went by the house?

Workbook for

**SEEKING
TRUE
VALUES**



Somehow

- A. Read the poem on page 225.
- B. 1. Define the following words:
- a. grumble _____
 - b. whimper _____
 - c. complain _____
2. What does the author conclude that happens in spite of our grumbling or complaining? Does that make it right to complain?
- _____
- _____
3. Copy two lines from the poem where the author is giving us some advice concerning our work.
- _____
- _____

FAIR EXCHANGE

- A. Read the complete story on pages 226 - 241.
- B. Write true or false on the blank.
- _____ 1. The Brunks lived in Virginia.
 - _____ 2. Martin found refuge in Pennsylvania.
 - _____ 3. This story takes place during World War II.
 - _____ 4. The Yankee soldier put the Brunks into great danger.
 - _____ 5. The Brunks were non-resistant Quakers.
 - _____ 6. Because of the Brunks' influence the soldier became a Christian.
 - _____ 7. Word got around that the Brunk family was boarding a Yankee soldier.
 - _____ 8. The soldiers warned Mother that Martin should go.
 - _____ 9. The Confederate soldiers wore blue uniforms.
 - _____ 10. Martin was given a Testament before he left home.
- C. Rewrite the statements from Part B which you labeled false so that they state the truth.
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- D. Without using your reader rewrite this story as you would retell it to a friend.

Service

- A. Read the poem on page 241 - 243.
B. 1. How does a man become conceited?

2. From whom did the author learn the lesson he teaches in the poem?

3. What lessons can we learn from the robins?

4. How can we be guilty of hiding our talents?

5. What do the robins not do which man might be apt to do?

You Sent the Money

- A. Read the poem on page 243.
B. Choose the best answer to the following questions and underline them.

1. "You started something that ne'er shall end" means--
 - a. The Bible bought with your money is being passed around a lot.
 - b. Sending Bibles across the sea is an endless task.
 - c. Your contribution will have eternal effects.
2. "Proceeded to turn his back to sin" means--
 - a. He started to live a better life.
 - b. He walked backwards toward the idols.
 - c. He never sinned again.
3. "Till his brother walked in the narrow way" means--
 - a. His brother lived a godly life.
 - b. His brother had to walk a narrow road.
 - c. His brother learned about God.

How the Great Guest Came

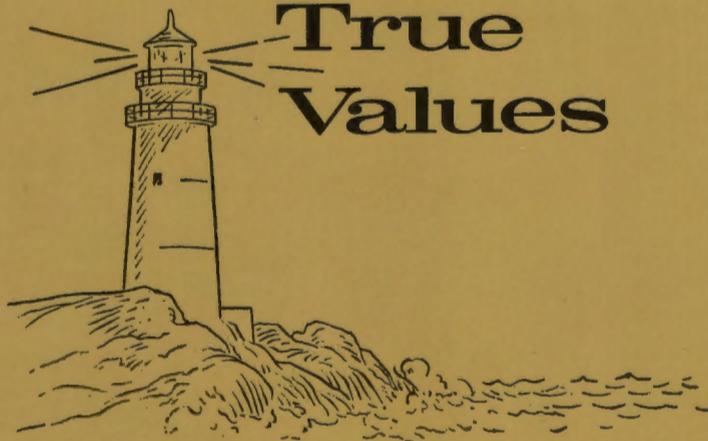
- A. Read the poem on page 244 to 246 and carefully note the details of this narrative.

- B. Without using your reader fill in the blanks.

1. During the night the cobbler had a _____.
2. The next day he prepared for a visit from the _____.
3. He was ready to _____ the feet, and _____ the hands of the Lord.
4. The old woman had a bundle of _____ on her back. He gave her some _____.

WORKBOOK FOR

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Teacher's Edition

Somehow

A. Read the poem on page 225.

B. 1. Define the following words:

- a. grumble to murmur discontentedly; to complain
b. whimper to caw or whine
c. complain to give voice to grief, pain, resentment, or discontent

2. What does the author conclude that happens in spite of our grumbling or complaining? Does that make it right to complain?

Somehow, it seems things work out.
No, it does not make it right to complain.

3. Copy two lines from the poem where the author is giving us some advice concerning our work.

So bend to your trouble and meet your care,
But keep on working and hoping still.

FAIR EXCHANGE

A. Read the complete story on pages 226 - 241.

B. Write true or false on the blank.

- true 1. The Brunks lived in Virginia.
true 2. Martin found refuge in Pennsylvania.
false 3. This story takes place during World War II.
true 4. The Yankee soldier put the Brunks into great danger.
false 5. The Brunks were non-resistant Quakers.
true 6. Because of the Brunks' influence the soldier became a Christian.
true 7. Word got around that the Brunk family was boarding a Yankee soldier.
false 8. The soldiers warned Mother that Martin should go.
false 9. The Confederate soldiers wore blue uniforms.
true 10. Martin was given a Testament before he left home.

C. Rewrite the statements from Part B which you labeled false so that they state the truth.

3. This story takes place during the Civil War. (Confederate soldiers gives the clue.)
5. The Brunks were non-resistant Mennonites.
8. The soldier warned Mother that Martin should go.
9. The Confederate soldiers wore grey uniforms.

D. Without using your reader rewrite this story as you would retell it to a friend.

Service

A. Read the poem on page 241 - 243.

B. 1. How does a man become conceited?

He becomes conceited if he does not give God the glory.

2. From whom did the author learn the lesson he teaches in the poem?

He learned it from the robins.

3. What lessons can we learn from the robins?

We should use our talents wisely, but not brag, instead give God the glory.

4. How can we be guilty of hiding our talents?

If we do not use our talents, we hide them.

5. What do the robins not do which man might be apt to do?

They don't brag or ask for praise or pay.

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B. Choose the best answer to the following questions and underline them.

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- c. His brother learned about God.

How the Great Guest Came

A. Read the poem on page 244 to 246 and carefully note the details of this narrative.

B. Without using your reader fill in the blanks.

1. During the night the cobbler had a dream.

2. The next day he prepared for a visit from the Lord.

3. He was ready to wash the feet, and kiss the hands of the Lord.

4. The old woman had a bundle of faggots on her back. He gave her some bread.
(sticks)