CHILLY CHARLIE SHINES!



Those who are wise will shine like the bright heavens. (Daniel 12:3 NLV)

One early winter morning, Chilly Charlie awoke to find the whole world sparkling. Fresh snow blanketed everything—the pine trees, the rooftops, the frozen lake and even Charlie's favorite sled. As the sun peeked over the trees, millions of tiny snowflakes glittered like diamonds.

"WOW!" Charlie whispered. "Everything is shining!"

Charlie wanted to shine, too. He polished his buttons, straightened his hat, and carefully tied his scarf until everything looked just right. "There!" he said proudly. "Now I shine!" As soon as Charlie stepped outside, he heard a little voice.

"Help!" Paccia Penguin was trying to carry an armful of sticks. *Whoosh! Crack! Clatter!* Down they all tumbled. Charlie knew that carrying a lot of things at once could be tricky. One of his arms worked differently from the other, so he had learned to find a different way to get things done.

"Hang on, Paccia!" Charlie called. "I'm coming to help!" Charlie and Paccia gathered the sticks. Then Charlie had an idea. He took off his scarf, wrapped it around the sticks, and tied them into a bundle. Together, they carried the bundle all the way to Paccia's house.

A little farther down the snowy path, Charlie spotted Fendi Fox standing all alone. "Where's Harben?" Charlie asked.

"He was supposed to meet me here," Fendi sighed. Charlie remembered when he and Fendi had planned to meet at the park—but each had gone to a different one! Soon, they were both laughing.

"Maybe Harben didn't forget," Charlie said. "Maybe he's waiting for you at another tree!" Fendi hurried home to call Harben, while Charlie headed home for lunch.

Just ahead of him, Neeley Joy slipped and fell in the snow. Charlie hurried over, reached out his strong arm, helped Neeley to her feet, and made sure she was okay before they said goodbye.

By lunchtime, Charlie's hat was crooked. His buttons weren't shiny anymore. And his scarf was still tied around Paccia's sticks!—but Charlie was shining brighter than ever. Not the sparkly-on-the-outside kind of shining. *The Jesus kind!*

Suddenly, Charlie remembered the Bible verse he had learned at church: *Those who are wise will shine like the bright heavens.* His Sunday School teacher had explained that being wise means learning to live like Jesus. We shine when we tell the truth, notice when someone feels left out, help those who are struggling, and love others as Jesus loves us.

We don't need perfect bodies, amazing talents, or sparkling buttons to shine, and we won't all shine the same way. Sometimes shining means doing something big and brave. Sometimes it means noticing someone who feels lonely. Sometimes it means finding a new way to solve a problem. Sometimes it is as simple as saying, "I'll help you."

Charlie looked across the field. The afternoon sun danced across the snow, making the flakes shimmer. He smiled and thought, "Snow shines when it reflects sunlight. We shine when we reflect the love of Jesus."

SHINE IT OUT!

Who could use a little extra kindness today? Maybe you could do a chore without being asked, invite your brother or sister to play, cheer up a friend who is sad, help someone who is struggling, or listen the first time your mom or dad asks you to do something.

Find one way to reflect Jesus' love today—then SHINE IT OUT!

LET'S PRAY

Jesus, teach me to be wise. Help me notice when someone needs a friend, a helping hand, or a bit of kindness. Show me how to use the gifts You have given me to love others well. Just as snow reflects the sunlight, help my words and actions reflect Your love so others can see You shining through me. Amen.

CHILLY CHARLIE'S SLOW-DOWN SEARCH

Because one of his arms works differently, Chilly Charlie sometimes needs a little extra time to do things, but slowing down has taught him something wonderful: when we hurry, we can miss some of God's little gifts, like a sparkling drop of water, a tiny leaf, a funny-shaped cloud, a bright splash of color--things we walk past but never really notice.

Today, look up, look down, peek around, and pay attention. How many of these can you find? Look for something:

- tiny
- green
- blue
- white
- red
- shiny
- clean
- new
- bright
- overhead

What did you notice when you slowed down?