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# Christian Storytelling

Pathfinder Honor  
Skill Level II

Presented by  
MG Lynn Rivamonte-Mokaya



# Christian Storytelling Category: Skill Level II

- Outdoor General Conference; introduced in 1928
- The Christian Storytelling is a component of the Witnessing Master Award, and this includes a couple of honors such as



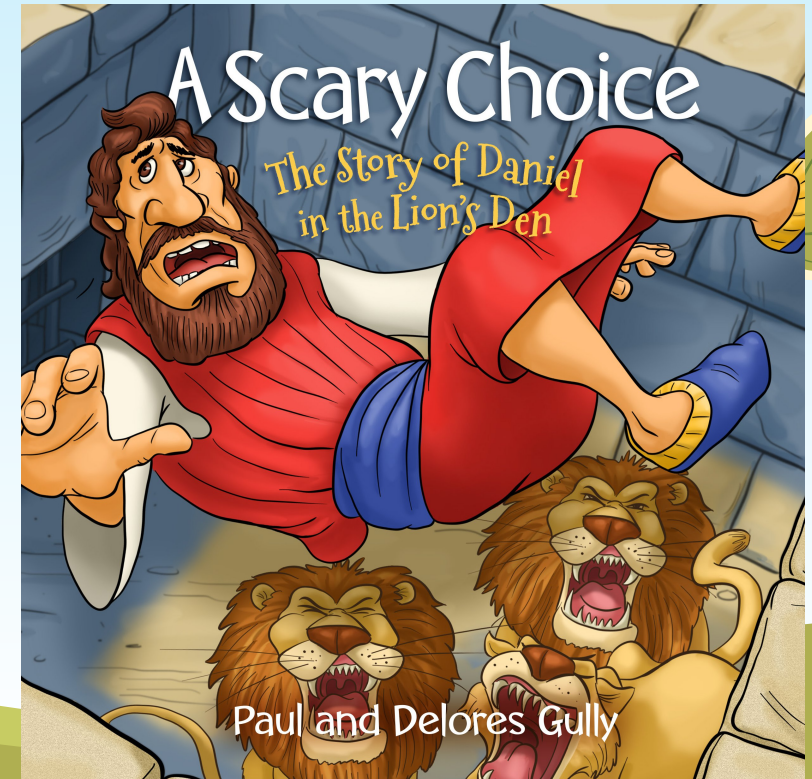
Adventist Pioneer Heritage		Outreach		2	2014	
Adventurer for Christ		Outreach		1	1989	
Adventurer for Christ - Advanced		Outreach		2	1989	
African American Adventist Heritage in the NAD		Outreach		1	2010	
African American Adventist Heritage in the NAD - Advanced		Outreach		2	2010	
Alive Bible		Outreach		1	2014	
Audio and Sound		Outreach		2	2012	
Audio and Sound - Advanced		Outreach		3	2012	
Bible Marking		Outreach		2	2001	
Bible Marking - Advanced		Outreach		3	2001	
Biblical Archaeology		Outreach		2	2012	
Biblical Researcher		Outreach		1	2012	
Braille		Outreach		1	2020	
Bully Prevention I		Outreach		1	2018	
Bully Prevention II		Outreach		2	2018	
Ceremonies		Outreach		2	2012	
Child Care (Babysitting)		Outreach		1	2001	

1. Name one where you have found material for stories for each of the following categories. Tell a story from **each** category.

**A. Sacred History.** This includes Bible Books from the Old Testament that is Historical in nature.

Sample Story: Daniel 6

The story of Daniel in the Lion's den tells of his obedience to God. Daniel loved to talk to God daily and he did this publicly three times each day religiously. Some people in the Kings palace did not like Daniel so they plotted to take his life by using his religious practices against him. These men tricked the King into passing a law that anyone found praying to another God except the King were to be cast into the den of lions. The King signed the decree and the men went to work to trap Daniel. Daniel did not change his routine but went ahead to his open window and prayed to God as he always did. When the men informed the King about Daniels doings the King was very upset with himself but he could not take back his decree. He commanded that Daniel be cast into the lions' den telling him that his Daniel's God will deliver him. The King spent the night fasting and was unable to sleep. Early the next morning he went to the lions' den and found that Daniel was still alive. Daniel told him that God had sent his angels to seal the lions' mouth shut and they had not hurt. As a result of their actions the men who had plotted against Daniel along with their families were thrown into the den of lions and they were killed by the lions. Obedience to God will by God's people will always result in the protection of His people.





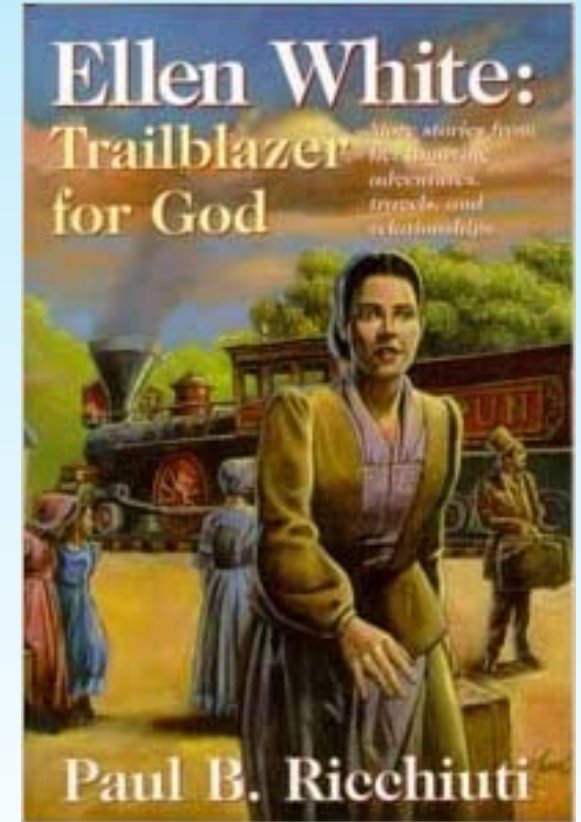
1. Name one where you have found material for stories for each of the following categories. Tell a story from **each** category. (cont.)

## B. Church History--

### Sample: Ellen White: Trailblazer for God

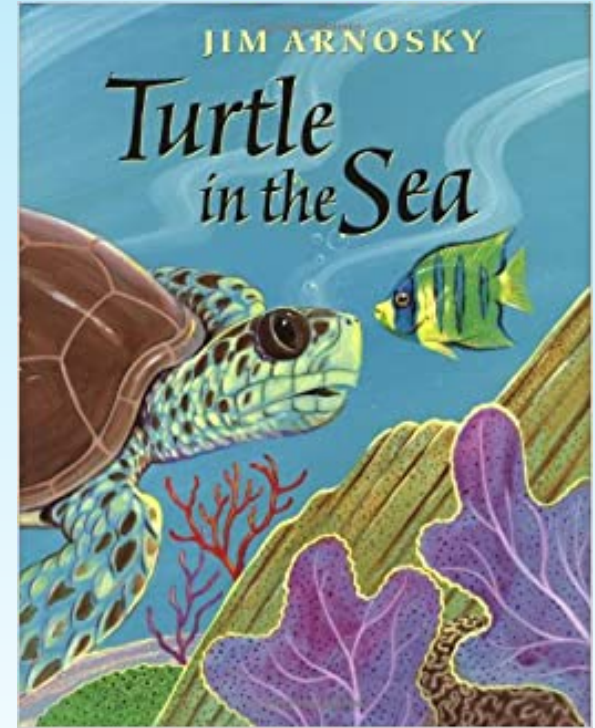
The year is 1884. Ellen White and a group of her friends have just started a trip to California. This is the first time Ellen White has had a long journey ahead of her. From New England to Australia, she tirelessly trekked across the country to encourage God's people and promote revival.

In *Ellen White: Trailblazer for God*, Paul Ricchiuti presents Ellen White as a courageous woman who followed God's path even when it led her through suffering. In spite of fragile health, the death of James and two sons, and countless other trials, this woman of God remained faithful to her calling and blazed a trail of truth that millions still follow today.



1. Name one where you have found material for stories for each of the following categories. Tell a story from **each** category. (cont.)

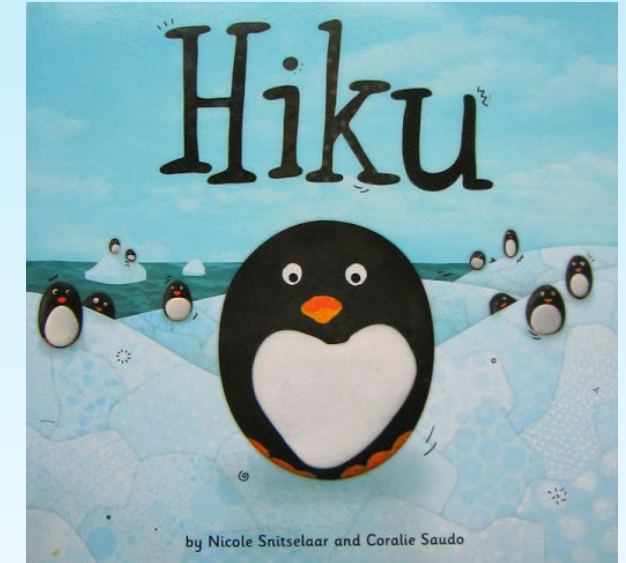
- c. **Nature.** Nature stories are really good ways of showing God's love. Authors like Jim Arnosky has written so many excellent stories and guides for younger crowds. These books can easily be found on public libraries, and maybe some of them are hanging around in your house! You can talk about the life cycle of animals, birds and various types of fish, or even penguins! For stories about nature, you need to consider one thing, kids love acting out animals!



1. Name one where you have found material for stories for each of the following categories. Tell a story from **each** category. (cont.)

## Nature—Penguin Life Cycle:

- Have them walk and slide on their tummies to a "rookery"
  - Hand each girl an "egg" (not a real egg!) and have her pass it to a boy using nothing but their feet.
  - Direct the girls to return to the "sea" to get "fish" (you can make fish from construction paper). It may be wise to have an assistant hand out the fish.
  - Have the boys huddle together to fight the cold Antarctic winter/night, rotating the boys from the inside to the outside so no one gets too cold. Tell them to keep
- their eggs on their feet.
- Take the "eggs" from the boys and give them "baby penguins" (plush toys work well for this)
  - Call the girls back and have them find the boy they passed their egg to. Then direct them to give the fish to the babies. (In reality, they regurgitate the fish when they return).
  - Have the boys return to the sea to eat - they haven't in several months! Then they return and feed the babies fish.
  - Finally the whole family returns to the sea.

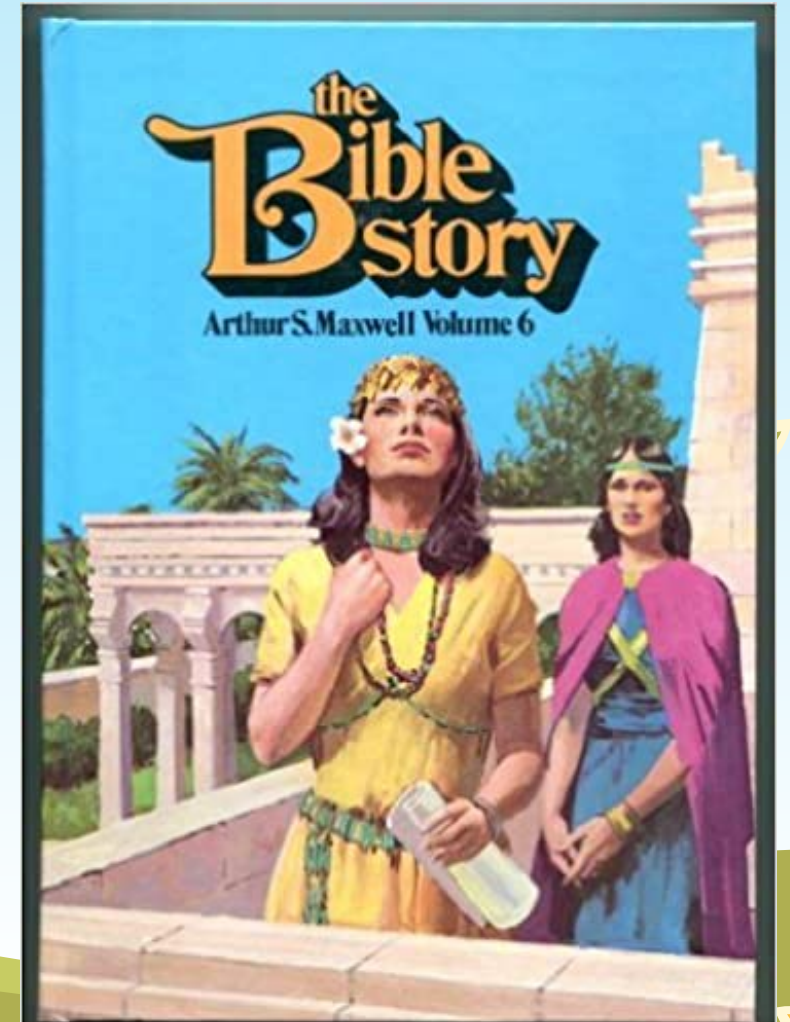




1. Name one where you have found material for stories for each of the following categories. Tell a story from **each** category. (cont.)

**d. Character Story**—this is a story about a character. It could be a famous one like a national hero, a president, or a Bible Character. It can be someone who did good, or bad (such that it tells us what not to do), and learn from that character. Arthur Maxwell, one of my favorite authors, has written some of the more interesting character story books of all time!

If you don't have these in your family library, you can ask your Children Ministry leaders or Adventist School libraries around your area.








# 1. Name one where you have found material for stories for each of the following categories. Tell a story from **each** category. (cont.)

**d. Character Story—Sample Story:** Little Johnny and Bob were classmates who went to the same school but did not know each other. Bob was a big boy, but Johnny was the smallest and sat in a corner by himself. Johnny did not talk to anyone in the class. The teacher started out the school year with the class rules and discussed the consequences for breaking them. One day Bob broke one of these rules, and when called to take his punishment of five lashes from teacher's ruler, Bob could not take the punishment. No one knew, but Bob was deathly afraid of being whipped. He stood rooted to the floor when the teacher called him and cried until he wet his pants. The class was sorry for Bob but could do nothing to help him even though they begged teacher not to punish him. The teacher told them that someone had to be punished for Bob's misdeed. The children all grew silent and waited, when from the back of the room a little voice said "I'll do it".

This is what Jesus did for all of us every time we sin we do not have to worry because Jesus went to the cross and died for our sins so we don't have to die every time we commit a sin. So let us think about his sacrifice for us every time we are tempted to do something that Jesus would not be pleased with.









1. Name one where you have found material for stories for each of the following categories. Tell a story from **each** category. (cont.)

**e. Object Lesson with Visual Aids** –these stories are lessons that warn others as to the outcomes as result from a particular behavior or exemplified by the fates of those who followed that course. So, the stories of Esau, Balaam's donkey, and Saul are wonderful stories to choose from. Uncle Arthurs, and Even Jesus' object lessons are good choices for these types of lessons. It is important to have VISUAL AIDS such it amplifies the story even better.

An object lesson is a story that warns others as to the outcomes that result from a particular behavior as exemplified by the fates of those who followed that course. The Biblical stories of Esau, Balaam's donkey, and King Saul are excellent examples. Uncle Arthur's story books are replete with object lessons. After choosing a story, you will need to choose a visual aid. A visual aid can be anything from the story, but the more central the visual aid is to the story, the better.



1. Name one where you have found material for stories for each of the following categories. Tell a story from **each** category. (cont.)

**e. Object Lesson with Visual Aids—Pineapple Story**

So once upon a time, there was a girl called Pina who lived with her mother. Her mom always ask her to do household chores but she doesn't do it. When asked to cook rice, she completely forgot about it, and their house almost burned down for it! When her mom asks her to check for some things, like a ladle, a pot, or whatever; she keeps saying she couldn't find it. One day, her mom was asking her to find the broom so that she could sweep, and Pina said that she couldn't find it. "Oh Pinang, I hope you had numerous eyes to see everything I ask you to find." Pina, however, went on her way to play.

One morning, Pina's mother noticed a plant in their backyard. The plant has so many "eyes". Her mom realized that it is like her daughter Pina, so she named the plant after her. Later on, people called it Piña or *Pineapple*.





The slide features a light blue background with several stylized autumn leaves in shades of green and orange scattered around the edges. At the bottom, there are rolling green hills. The main text is centered and reads:

## 2. For the above stories you tell, do the following

**a. Tell one of your stories to children, aged five and under, for at least three minutes.**

Volunteer to tell a story to the Beginners (Cradle Roll) Sabbath School class in your church, or if your church presents a children's story during the worship hour, volunteer to tell that. You can also tell stories if you volunteer to work the child care aspects of an evangelistic series.

**b. Tell one of your stories to the 10-12 year olds for at least five minutes.**

Volunteer to tell a story to the Juniors Sabbath School class in your church, or tell one around a campfire during your next club camp out. You can also tell a story as part of the worship service during a Pathfinder meeting.

**This is the part that will be done after the Covid-19 quarantine is over\* Talk to your Children's Ministry director/coordinator to do this.**



# 3. Make a written outline of a story you are to tell.

An outline is a hierarchical organization of an idea - in this case, a story. The major bullets in the outline should include the setup, description of a conflict, how the characters react to the conflict, how the conflict is resolved, and the events caused by the resolution.

## 1.Setup

1. Where and When
2. Description of protagonist

## 2.Conflict

1. Description of antagonist
2. Nature of the conflict

## 3.Reaction to conflict

1. What the antagonist does
2. What the protagonist does

## 4.Resolution

1. How the conflict is resolved

## 5.Aftermath

1. What happens to the antagonist
2. Lessons learned

## Set Up

1. A long time ago in the land of Uz.
2. There was a rich man named Job, he always put God first in his life.

## Conflict

1. Satan, the archenemy of humankind
2. He went to God one day to talk about Job. Satan argued with God to say that God blesses Job too much. But God was convinced that nothing would stop Job from loving and honoring Him. Satan said that he will test Job to see. God said he can, but he can't kill him.

## Reaction to conflict




1. Satan set off to test Job. He caused pestilence and tragedy go through his family, killing many of his servants and children, his cattle, and his home, making him extremely poor. He even got boils! His wife started blaming him for holding on to God. His friends Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar cursed him, saying He did something wrong against God. Only Elihu said that God might have a different purpose for his suffering.
2. Job didn't blame God to stop loving or trusting God. He knew that He was faithful. He said he will trust God!

## Resolution

1. God said to Satan, stop, you couldn't make Job hate me! God gave Job extra health, riches and all that was lost was returned to him ten-fold!





## Aftermath




1. And Satan stopped!
2. The Lesson is to always trust God no matter what happens!



## 4. State how and under what circumstances course material is to be modified for the following:

### a. **Telling the story in first person, second person, and third person**

- a. First Person: using the pronouns I, me, we, us. These stories are among the most compelling because they come from the story teller's personal experience - and the audience *knows* that.
  - b. Second Person: A story told in the second person is one where the word "you" is used. A good way to tell a story in the second person is to direct your audience to close their eyes and imagine specific points in your story: "Imagine yourself as you walk through the forest. You can hear the birds sing. You can feel a gentle breeze on your face." Bible stories lend themselves to this sort of story telling, and can put the audience right in the story.
  - c. Third Person—A story told in the third person is a story told about someone else. The downside to telling a story in third person is that the audience assumes you do not have personal experience in the matter, and they are not fully engaged (as in the second person).
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## 4. State how and under what circumstances course material is to be modified for the following (cont.)

**b. Different audiences, ages, and purposes:** Young children do not have the patience to sit through a long story, so make it short. Make sure your vocabulary matches that of your audience. The point of storytelling is not to demonstrate how clever you are, it is to communicate an idea. You can use one story to make more than one point by stressing different parts of it. The story of Jonah can be used to stress the importance of obedience, how we cannot run away from God, the love God has for other people, or how enormous a whale is. Each of these points can be made with the same story by stressing different aspects of it.

**c. Making the story shorter:** Consider your audience when telling a story, especially if you're teaching younger kids. Be brief in including the attention span of your audience, the point you are trying to make, or the amount of time you have been allotted to tell the story. You can skip some details, and taking out some sub plots, etc.



**d. Making the Story longer:** Sometimes, the story is too short, you have to lengthen it by adding information that would be useful to the audience. Or sometimes, a character needs to be understood by your audience that you need to take time describing him, etc.







## 5. Tell why a definite aim is necessary in telling a story.

Remember that if the story doesn't have a goal or aim for its audience, it's idle entertainment! It should have a message across! A good story teller can get a message across without the hearers suspecting they've been preached to!



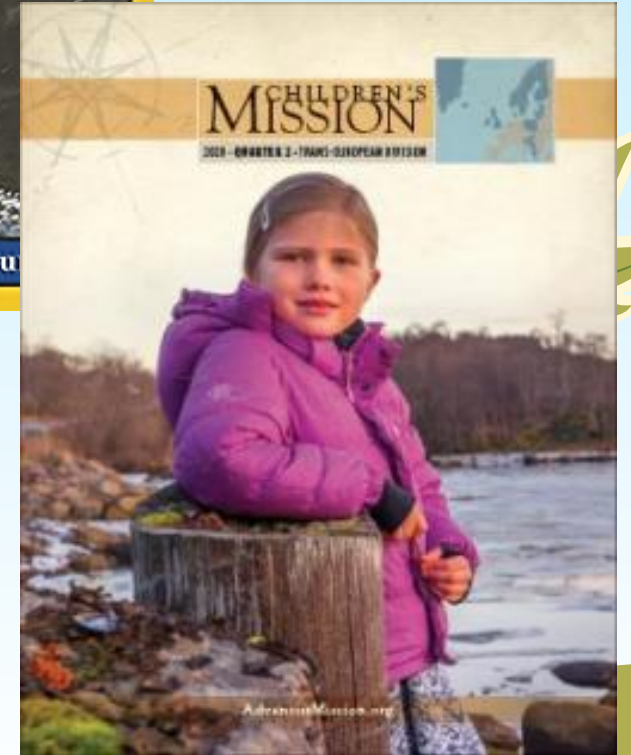
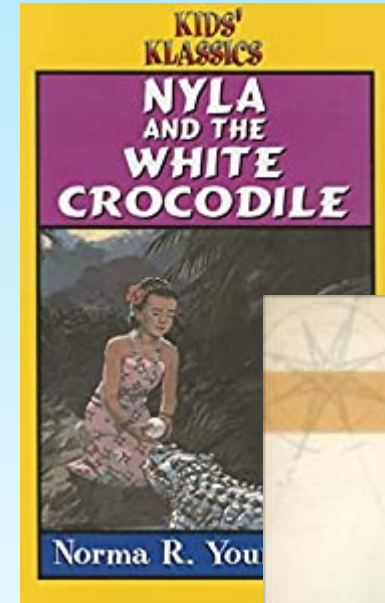
You can also say that the aim is also of education. A story about a bible character, a church leader tells us about our history, their way of life, how they think, etc. The story teller's aim might be different from the story and it will only confuse your listeners if you aren't clear of why you're telling that story.





## 6. Tell one story of foreign missionaries, not less than five minutes in length.

This one is specifically about our Adventist Missionaries. Norma Youngberg is one example of writers who've written numerous books about missionary adventures in the South Pacific. Eric B. Hare also wrote a lot about this. *Hall of Faith* series from Pacific Press is another good source of foreign missionary stories. You can find it in Amazon. Or, if you can contact your Children Ministry director/Sabbath School coordinator at your church, you can read/tell the story of one of the mission stories being read in the Sabbath School morning. Try to choose from one of the stories in the quarterly reading.



## 7. Tell one story that teaches health principles.

You may wish to draw from personal experience, or from other sources.

Many people have stories about sneaking a cigarette and getting sick. The story of Daniel's refusal to eat from the king's table is an excellent source as well.



### SAMPLE STORY

This is the story of a little boy who loved candy and would not heed his grandmother's warning about eating more than one piece per day. Grandma, knowing of his love for candy, hid it in one of the cabinets. It did not take him long to figure out where the candy was though. One day when she was asleep, he climbed upon a chair and took down his grandmother's jar of candy and sat down to enjoy himself. He planned to have only one, but each one became one more until the jar was empty.

When he realized that the jar was empty he hid the jar behind the cereal boxes as if nothing had happened. That night he could not sleep because he had a stomach ache. He cried from the pain and when his grandmother asked him what was wrong he could only tell her that his stomach hurt. Grandma in her wisdom went to check the candy jar. Finding it empty, she knew what was wrong with him. She gave him some tea to soothe his stomach and when he woke up the next morning and he saw that Grandma had placed the candy jar on the kitchen table.

He knew that his grandmother knew. She talked to him about his disobedience and how his health was affected because he was not obedient to her and that he had also been disobedient to God's command.

That's the End of our  
Class! Thank you!

Questions?



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