

“Benny, we are thieves!” he suddenly said.
“But nobody saw us,” Benny replied.
“Doesn’t matter,” said Carl. “Just because no one else knows doesn’t make any difference. We’re still thieves.”

The two boys argued for some time until Benny asked, “What are you going to do about it?”

“I’m taking back my share tomorrow,” answered Carl. “I don’t want to have this awful feeling all the time. I’ll just have to tell Mr. Brown that I took them.”

Next morning Carl put half the peaches in a bag and went back to Mr. Brown’s shop.

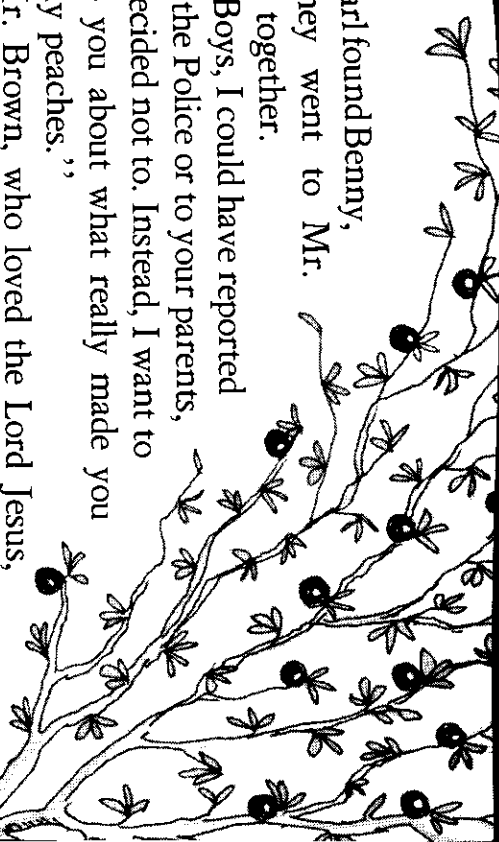
“Hello, young man,” Mr. Brown said cheerfully. “What can I do for you today?”

“I, um . . . I have some peaches here. . . .”

“Well, well,” Mr. Brown said, “so you brought back the peaches you took last night. Where’s Benny and his peaches?”

Carl’s mouth opened in surprise. “Who told you?”

“Something that can’t talk,” Mr. Brown said. “Come! I’ll show you.” Under the peach tree Mr. Brown knelt down and pointed to some footprints in the soft ground. “You know those new heels I put on your shoes yesterday? I put the very same kind on Benny’s shoes last week. They were the only two pairs of that kind that I had left. As soon as I saw these footprints this morning, I knew them. I also saw that some peaches were gone, and I knew who took them. I’m glad you brought them back. Find Benny and bring him here. I have something to say to both of you.”



Carl found Benny, and they went to Mr. Brown together.

“Boys, I could have reported you to the Police or to your parents, but I decided not to. Instead, I want to talk to you about what really made you take my peaches.”

Mr. Brown, who loved the Lord Jesus, explained that every person is born a sinner, and that we all sin. So we need Jesus Christ to save us. Only He can save us from the punishment we deserve for our sins. Mr. Brown explained that they must come to God to tell Him about their sins. He also told them that they had to trust in Jesus Christ, who suffered the punishment for His people’s sins by dying on the cross.

Boys and girls, have you ever felt uneasy about your sins, as Carl did about his stealing? Have you realised that “your sin will find you out”? You cannot do wrong and get away with it, as Benny thought. God sees everything we do, and He will punish us for our sins if we are not saved, for “whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap”.

Should you not go to God in prayer and tell Him about your sins? Yes, indeed; and you should go right away. Ask God to have mercy on you, and to make you willing and able to trust in Jesus Christ to save you from your sins.