

---

## Too Late

---

THIS story is about a Dutch boy called Jacob who was eight years old. He was a nice boy and he was the best pupil in his class. He had lots of friends because he was clever at thinking up different games to play. He was also clever at making things. He used to spend hours working in the shed at home making toys from old pieces of wood.

But Jacob had a bad habit. Whenever anyone called him he would say, "I'm just coming in a minute". When his mother called, "Jacob, go quickly to the shop for me", Jacob would say, "Just coming in a minute, Mum!". Did Jacob come? He did not! If his father called, "Jacob, pump up the tyre of my bike", Jacob said, "Yes, Dad, just in a minute". Did he do it? Not him! Very often he forgot and carried on with what he was doing.

When Jacob had his ninth birthday he got a beautiful present from his parents. It was a tool box filled with all sorts of new, shiny tools. There was a small hammer, a screwdriver, a saw, nails — everything! Jacob was really excited.

Next day was Saturday, so off he went with his new toolbox to the shed. He wanted to make a little garage for his toy cars. He was busy sawing a piece of wood when his mother called, "Jacob, come quickly".

Just coming in a minute!" Jacob shouted. Everything was just going fine. "Mum will call me again," thought Jacob. "If she doesn't, I will find out later what she wants."

His mother did not call him again; so after a while Jacob thought, "Perhaps I should find out what Mum wants".

He ran into the house.

"You have come at last, Jacob," said his mother. "Grandpa came in the car a little while ago, and he was going to take you to stay with himself and Grandma for the weekend; but when I called, you did not come. Grandpa could not wait; so John has gone with him instead."

Jacob did not answer but turned and went outside. In his eyes were big tears. Had he gone inside when he was called, he would now be with Grandpa in the car. Now it was too late. John had gone instead.

Jacob now made up his mind never to say again, "Just a minute". It was a good lesson he learned that day.

Do you say sometimes, "Just wait a minute"? Take care you do not come too late, just like Jacob. It is bad to wait when you should come right away, or when you should do something at once.

God says, "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth". What do you do? Maybe you think, "I will just wait a while; I will do it some other time". That is a very wrong thing to do because God says, "Remember thy Creator *now*".