

"Tico"-Tac-Toe

By Jeanne Zornes

Someone knocked on the classroom door.

"A new student is joining us today," the teacher said. Mrs. Atkins opened the door. A boy with coal-black hair and thick glasses rolled in. He sat in a fancy power wheelchair. He steered the wheelchair using a knob on the armrest.

"Class, meet Tico Ramirez," Mrs. Atkins said. "He speaks both Spanish and English. Let's say, 'Buenos dias.'"

Mrs. Atkins had taught the class some Spanish phrases, so that was easy. But it was hard not to stare at Tico.

"Tico usually has a helper," Mrs. Atkins said. "But she is sick today. I told the principal we could all be his helpers."

Mrs. Atkins set the spelling worksheet on Tico's wheelchair tray. Then she began to write words on the board. Justin tried to copy the words on the board, but he couldn't stop looking at Tico. Tico copied the words, too, but holding a pencil was hard for him.

Finally the recess bell rang. "Justin, could you please stay for a moment?" Mrs. Atkins asked. Everyone else ran out the door and ignored Tico.

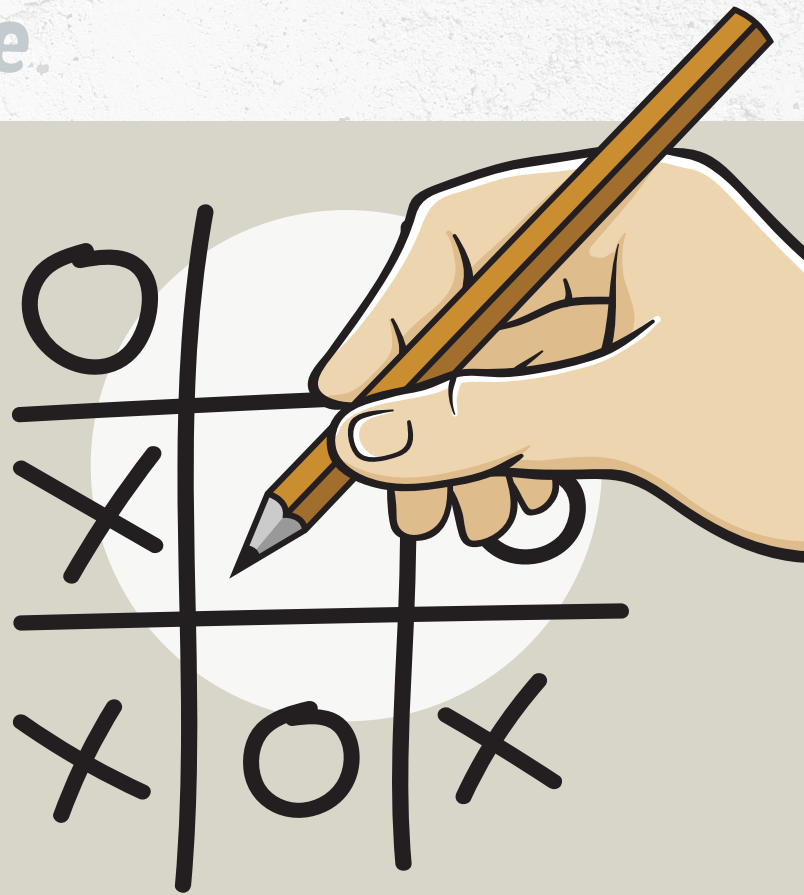
Justin wondered what he had done wrong. The teacher never asked students to stay behind unless they were bad. "Did I stare at Tico too much?" Justin thought.

Mrs. Atkins motioned for Justin to join her by Tico.

"Justin," she said, "because Tico can't play outside at recess, we're going to have indoor recess buddies for him. Could you be his first buddy?"

Justin didn't really feel like staying in with Tico. He wanted to be outside playing basketball with his friends.

"Sorry . . . if you don't . . . want to be . . . my friend," Tico said slowly. Even talking was difficult for him.



Justin felt sad. He didn't want Tico to feel bad about being different from other kids. He prayed silently, "God, I know You have the power to help me do Your will. Please help me want to be Tico's friend."

"No, we can play something," Justin said.

"I play . . . tic-tac-toe," Tico said. He turned over his spelling worksheet. In one corner, he drew two lines across and two down.

Justin used to think he was pretty good at that game, but it turned out that Tico was even better.

"Play . . . harder . . . tic-tac-toe?" Tico asked.

Justin got another sheet of paper and watched Tico draw three lines down and three across. That made it almost impossible for Justin to get his O's in a row. The boys laughed as they blocked each other's moves. Soon the other kids came in from recess.

At afternoon recess, Mrs. Atkins asked for a volunteer to be Tico's indoor recess buddy. No one volunteered, so Justin said he'd do it again. This time he read jokes to Tico from a joke book. Tico laughed so hard he almost cried.

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Rope Scramble

Unscramble the words on the wall while the spies escape from Rahab's window. Read the unscrambled words in order to find out why Rahab had courage to hide the Israelite spies.

haRba



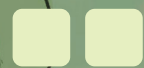
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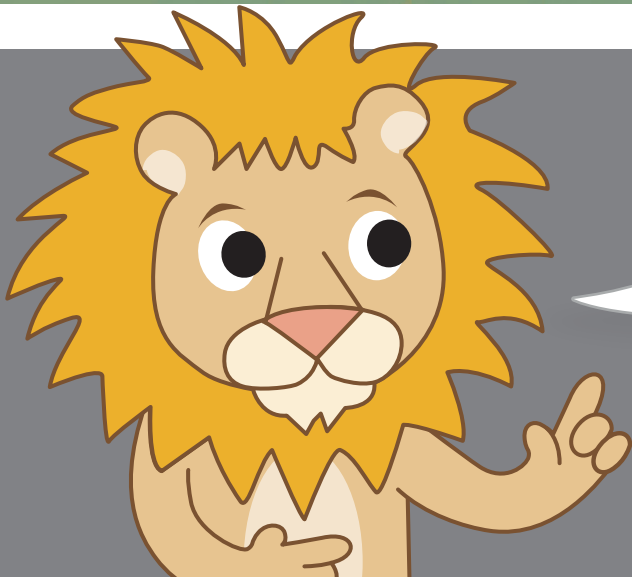
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MEMORY VERSE

"Be strong and of good courage;
do not be afraid, nor be dismayed,
for the LORD your God is with you
wherever you go"
(Joshua 1:9).

Finish the Story

Use the word bank to complete the sentences that tell the account of Rahab and the Israelite spies.

- Joshua sent two spies to _____.
- The spies went to hide at _____'s house.
- Rahab told the king's men that the spies had escaped out the city _____.
- The spies were on Rahab's _____ hiding under stalks of _____.
- Rahab asked the spies to spare her _____ when the Israelites defeated Jericho.
- Using a _____, the spies escaped out of Rahab's _____.
- Rahab tied a scarlet _____ in her window.

Word Bank

family Jericho
cord gates
flax rope
Rahab window
 roof

Growing at Home



The Primary lesson for this week focused on the faith of Rahab, the woman who hid Israelite spies on her roof.

Rahab was not an Israelite, but she knew of and believed in God's power. This faith gave her the boldness to ask the spies for protection from the coming destruction. Rahab's story is a great example of how true belief in God's power should result in stronger faith. Use her story to teach your child to have confidence in God's great power. We can always rely on Him.

Measurables

Look for the following indicators that your child is encouraged by God's power to have faith in Him.

1. **My child believes that nothing and no one is more powerful than God.**
2. **My child is reassured by the fact that God is powerful.**
3. **My child prays with confidence, knowing God will help him or her.**

"Tico"-Tac-Toe (continued)

After school, Justin volunteered to wait with Tico for the special education bus. It had a lift ramp for wheelchairs.

"Thanks . . . for being my . . . recess buddy," Tico said.

"You're welcome," Justin said. "It was fun. It was the least I could do."

When Justin said that, it made him think of his prayer earlier that day. God really was powerful enough to help him be Tico's friend. And Justin knew God was powerful enough to help him the next time he faced a difficult situation.

"Plus," Justin thought, "Now I know someone who's great at 'Tico'-tac-toe!" ■

Answer the story questions.

1. What was different about Tico?
2. Why was Justin unsure about being Tico's friend at first?
3. How was Justin able to become Tico's friend?



Rahab's Bold Choice

Joshua 1; 2



After wandering in the wilderness for forty years, it was finally time for the Israelites to enter the Promised Land. God chose Joshua to lead Israel into the Promised Land after Moses died.

God told Joshua, "Go to the land I will give you. Think about My words day and night, and do what they say. Then you will succeed. I will be with you."

Evil people lived in the land where God wanted His People to live. Joshua sent two brave men to spy on the people

in the land to see what they were doing.

The two spies went to the city of Jericho. Soon the king of Jericho found out about the spies and sent his men to find them.

A woman named Rahab hid the spies on her roof under stalks of flax. Rahab decided to hide them because of her faith in God.

"I know that the Lord has given you this land," she said to the spies. "I believe that the Lord your God is the true God. Please save me and my family when your army captures this city."

The spies promised her that she and her family would be spared. "When the Israelites come to conquer this land, gather all your family into your house. Then you and your family will be safe."

Rahab hung a strong rope down from her window. The spies climbed down the rope and escaped from Jericho.

Rahab tied a red cord in the window, as the spies had instructed her, so that they would know which house belonged to her. The cord would help remind them to keep their promise when the Israelites destroyed Jericho. Because of Rahab's faith in God, her family would be safe. ■

