



CHAPTER NINE

Will finds a guide

Will had now discovered various Commandments on his quest. They were pointing him in the direction to take. If he ignored them, he ended up on the wrong path. Will knew that there were ten altogether, and his quest would not be over until he had found the others.

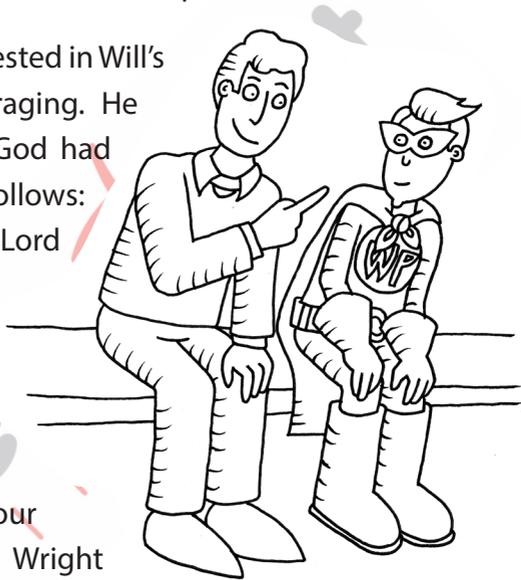
Not long after, Will's gran became very ill, so ill that everyone thought she was going to die. While Will was visiting her, the priest from her church came to give her a special blessing. Father Wright was very comforting. He said that if she died, Will's gran would go to heaven to join God our Father, and be happy forever. She had led a good life doing her best to love God and everyone else around her. Heaven was a reward Gran would receive at the end of her life and was what God had promised.

Will's ears pricked up when Father Wright mentioned a reward. He thought he would ask Father Wright about it. Father Wright

seemed ready to listen. Will told him about the quest and how, so far, it had seemed to be testing him on the best choices to make in life. It hadn't been easy but Will had discovered some Commandments along the way which had been clues to help him. Will explained he wanted to find the others but wasn't sure where. He was wondering where they would all lead and what he would find at the end of his quest.

Father Wright was interested in Will's story and very encouraging. He began by saying that God had commanded us as follows:

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself." Father Wright explained that this statement summed up all the Ten Commandments.



Clearly, Will had been finding out about loving his neighbour on his quest so far. The Commandments he had found had been showing him how to do it. "But there is more to it than that, Will," Father Wright said. "Loving God is really important, and there are some more Commandments to help us. Before you continue on your quest and find out what these are, I

want to explain how close God is to us. God is not on another planet. God is with us here on earth as well as in heaven. We show we are with God in return when we choose to love God. Loving our neighbour is one way of doing this. It's a bit like being in a team where, by working together, we show support for our team leader.

Will was puzzled. He knew he could make wrong choices sometimes which meant he disobeyed some of the Commandments. It was hard at times. "If God really loves us and wants us to love him in return, why can we make wrong choices?" he asked.

"Well, the answer to that, Will, is that God loves us so much that God wants us to be free to make up our own minds to do what is right." Father Wright said, "If we weren't free and didn't have free will, we would be like puppets on strings. Marionettes are not nearly as lovable as real people."

Will remembered the story of Pinocchio, a naughty puppet, and how much he had wanted to be a real boy. It was not until he had learnt several difficult lessons about how to behave and be kind to people that he became human. Pinocchio had then turned into a very endearing child indeed and was much more lovable. "You were made in God's likeness, you know, and you are one of God's children already and not a puppet," Father Wright said.

Father Wright thought that was probably enough talk for a while. It was time for him to visit some other patients, anyway.

“Why don’t you have a think about God’s love and being part of God’s team, Will?” he said.

Gran was fast asleep, and so Will had a few moments to start thinking. He began to wonder if his quest was all about finding God’s love for him and learning how to love him in return. Were his wise choices, and the wise choices of the people he had met so far on his quest, ways of him finding God’s love, and of God loving him in return? Will just hadn’t thought about it this way before and it was an important discovery.

Can you remember any of the wise choices made during Will’s quest?

There are quite a few, so instead of writing the wise choices down, you could say them out loud.