

“The voice of thy thunder was in the heaven.”

– Psalm 77:18

Who’s Afraid of Funder?

What did Benny learn about thunder?

Boom!

Benny jumped. He stopped putting blocks on his truck. He looked out the window at the barn. His eyes were big.

Katy jumped too. But she **laughed**. “Big boom,” she said. Then she went on making a big stack of blocks.

Boom! **Boom-ady**, boom-ady, boom, boom!

Benny jumped again. He looked out

at the barn. He got up.

“Where are you going?” asked Katy.

“I don’t like **thunder storms**. I’m **afraid** when it thunders.”

“It’s just funder,” said Katy. “Funder can’t hurt you. It is just a loud boom. Boom-ady! Boom-ady! Boom-ady!”
Katy laughed again.

“You are too little to know anything. You are too little to know what thunder storms can do,” said Benny.

“What can funder storms do?” asked Katy.

“They can burn barns down. They can burn this house down.”

“How can funder burn down a house?”

“Benny.” It was Daddy. The children had not seen him come into the room.

Daddy sat in the big chair.

“Children, come here,” he said.

Benny sat on one arm of the chair. Katy got up and sat on the other arm. Daddy put one arm around Benny. He put the other arm around Katy.

“Benny, are you afraid of this thunder storm?”

Benny nodded.

“I’m not afraid,” said Katy. “It is just funder. Funder can’t hurt you.”

“It can so,” said Benny. “It can burn barns down.”

“No, Benny,” said Daddy. “Thunder



can't hurt you. Thunder makes you jump when it is very loud, but it can't hurt you."

"The Reeds' barn burned down in a thunder storm," said Benny.

"Yes," said Daddy. "**Lightning** hit

their barn and set it on fire. It was the lightning, not the thunder. But we made a new barn for the Reeds.”

“Why did God let their barn burn?” asked Benny.

“We do not know why God lets things **happen**. And we do not need to know. But we do know God loves us. If we love and obey Him, He will not let anything happen unless it is good for us.”

“Was it good for the Reeds’ barn to burn down?”

“Yes, the Reeds love God. So we know some good came from it. Can you think of any good that came from their barn burning?”

“I **guess** the new barn is a good thing. It is much better than their old one,” said Benny.

“Yes, that is one good thing,” said Daddy. “And I can think of others. We all went to the Reeds to help make their new barn. Do you think they saw how much we loved them?”

“I guess so,” said Benny.

“When the new barn was up, could they see how God took care of their needs? Do you think they can trust God more now?”

“They should,” said Benny.

“And we were happy too,” said Katy. “We had fun that day.”

“Yes. God makes us happy when we

show love to others. That was another good thing that came from the fire. So, Benny, don't you think you can trust God too? Don't you think He will take care of you when we have a thunder storm?"

"I guess so. I think I can now. But it still makes me jump when it booms real loud."

"It makes me jump sometimes too," said Daddy. "And we should stay inside when it is lightning. That is the safe place to be in a thunder storm."

"But we do not need to be afraid. God will take care of us. We do not need to be afraid of what will happen."

Benny nodded as he got down. "I will try not to be afraid any more," he said.

Katy hopped down too. She laughed and said, “I’m not afraid. It’s just funder. Who’s afraid of funder?”

– Ruth K. Hobbs

"And he said, Go again seven times."

– 1 Kings 18:43

To Make a Habit

**How could Tim get a jelly bean after
the snowman was made?**

Ronnie came in the back door. "Tim, I thought you were coming out right away. The snow is just right. The other boys are here. We are going up on the hill to make a big snowman. We are going to make the most **wonderful** snowman you ever saw.

"Why don't you come? We can't wait all day!"

"I can't find my cap. It has **gotten**

lost. Do you know where it is?”

“No. Don’t tell me you have lost your cap again. You lost it yesterday. Did you look on your **hook**?” asked Ronnie.

“Yes. It is not there.”

“Did you put it on the hook when you took it off?” asked Mother.

“I guess I didn’t. I can’t remember to do that every time,” said Tim.

“Well, find it and come on. We can’t wait for you any more,” said Ronnie.

“Don’t go **without** me,” cried Tim.
“Mother, make him wait. Make him help hunt for my cap.”

“Ronnie does not need to wait for you. He does not need to hunt for your



cap,” said Mother. “He may go on without you.”

“Oh, Mother,” cried Tim. He ran into the kitchen. He ran into the other rooms looking for his cap. “Where is my cap? Please help me hunt for it.”

“It is right where you put it, I guess. But you may stop looking for it now. Tell me why you did not put it on your hook. I put that hook **behind** the back door just for you. Why was your cap not there?”

“Because I did not put it there, I guess,” said Tim.

“Is the hook too high for you?”

“No.”

“The hook is right behind the back door. If you take off your cap and put it on the hook when you come in, it will be

there every time you need it. Why don't you do that?"

"I don't know," said Tim.

"I know," said Mother. "You have not gotten into the **habit** of doing it, that's all. If you had gotten into the habit, you would do it without thinking. Do you know that a good habit works for you without pay?"

"What do you mean?" asked Tim.

"Well, you could pay Ronnie for finding your cap and putting it on the hook. Or you could pay Daddy and me every time we find it and put it on the hook."

Tim laughed. "I guess I would run out of money pretty fast if I did that."

“Yes, you would,” said Mother. “But if you got into the habit of putting your cap on its hook, you would not need to pay anyone. Your habit would put it there for nothing.”

“I see,” said Tim. “But when I come in, I can’t think of my cap and that hook every time.”

“That is the wonderful thing about a good habit,” said Mother. “If you have gotten into a good habit, you do not need to think. A habit works without being told.”

“Does it?” asked Tim. “That would be wonderful. I would like to have a habit like that. How do you get one?”

“Do you remember when Brother Joe had children’s meeting at church?”

“Oh, yes, that time when he put a string around and around one of the boys so many times he couldn’t break it. He said we get into bad habits by doing something bad over and over. The more we do it, the harder it is to break. Then we do the bad thing without thinking. We can’t help it.”

“Yes,” said Mother. “And we make good habits the same way. You must put your cap on the hook, time after time after time. Soon you will do it without thinking because you have gotten into the habit. Then your cap will be there when you want it.

“Right now you have a bad habit. Time after time when you come in, you put your cap on the table or on a chair

or on the **sofa.**”

“The sofa!” cried Tim. “Thank you, Mother. That’s where I put my cap!” He went into the **living** room and came out with his cap.

“I put it on the back of the sofa, and it fell down behind it on the floor. That’s why I didn’t see it. Now may I go out and help with the snowman?”

“Not yet,” said Mother. “I think you need to start on that good habit right now.”

“How?” asked Tim.

“Put on your coat and cap.”

Tim put them on.

“Now go out the door and run to the gate and back. As soon as you come in,

take off your cap and put it on the hook.”

Tim did as Mother said.

“Is that all?” he asked.

“Oh, no! One time does not make a habit. See, I am going to put these **jelly beans** on the table. Put on your cap again and run down to the gate. Every time you come in, put your cap on its hook. Then come and get a jelly bean. When the jelly beans are all gone, you may go and play.”

“Do I get one now?” asked Tim with a laugh.

“Yes,” said Mother. “And after you come in from making the snowman, I’ll give you one more if I see you are still working on your good habit.”