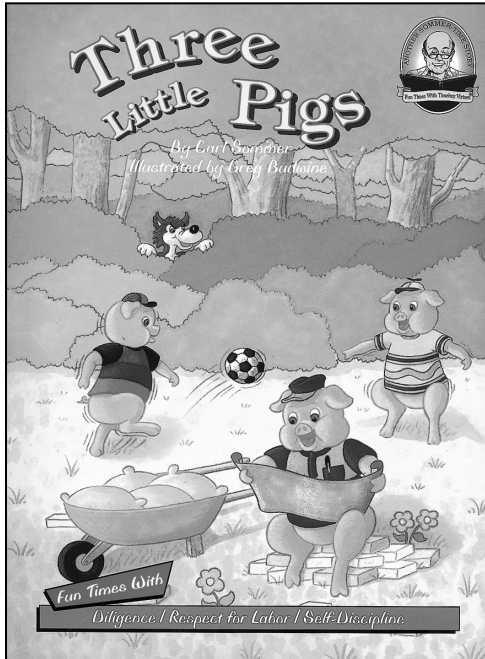


Character Education Lessons

Bible Edition

Three Little Pigs



Summary

When Dozy, Pokey, and Hardy went out into the world, Papa and Mama warned them to build strong houses because of the big bad wolf.

Dozey and Pokey ignored their parents' advice and built flimsy houses. But Hardy listened to his parents by working hard and building a strong house. After the big, bad wolf blew down the houses of Dozey and Pokey, they narrowly escaped to Hardy's house, and learned a valuable lesson about doing their best.

In the rewriting of this classic tale, Carl Sommer teaches the importance of diligence, respect for labor, and self-discipline.

Main Virtues

Diligence/Respect for Labor/Self-Discipline

Other Virtues

Assertiveness, Commitment, Dignity of Labor, Initiative, Obedience to Parents, Perseverance, Responsibility, Safety, Self-Control, Self-Reliance, Temperance, and Trust

Contents

- Diligent to Desire Wisdom
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- Respect for Labor and Self-Discipline Brings Success
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Diligent to Desire Wisdom

Long, long ago in a forest far away there lived a happy family of pigs. There was Papa Pig, Mama Pig, and the three little pigs, Dozey, Pokey, and Hardy.

Both Papa and Mama had taught them many things. But Dozey would rather do anything than listen to Papa and Mama teach.

Dozey did not want to learn. Wise individuals are diligent to gain wisdom.

Proverbs 2:1-5

My son, if you receive my words,
and treasure my commands within you,
[2] so that you incline your ear to wisdom,
and apply your heart to understanding;
[3] yes, if you cry out for discernment,
and lift up your voice for understanding,
[4] if you seek her as silver,
and search for her as for hidden treasures;
[5] then you will understand the fear of the Lord,
and find the knowledge of God.

√* Proverbs 3:13-18

Happy is the man who finds wisdom,
and the man who gains understanding;
[14] for her proceeds are better than the profits of silver,
and her gain than fine gold.
[15] She is more precious than rubies,
and all the things you may desire cannot compare with her.
[16] Length of days is in her right hand,
in her left hand riches and honor.
[17] Her ways are ways of pleasantness,
and all her paths are peace.
[18] She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her,
and happy are all who retain her.

Proverbs 4:5-9

Get wisdom! Get understanding!
Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth.
[6] Do not forsake her, and she will preserve you;
love her, and she will keep you.
[7] Wisdom is the principal thing;
therefore get wisdom.
And in all your getting, get understanding.
[8] Exalt her, and she will promote you;
she will bring you honor, when you embrace her.
[9] She will place on your head an ornament of grace;
a crown of glory she will deliver to you.

Proverbs 19:8

He who gets wisdom loves his own soul;
he who keeps understanding will find good.

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John 8:32

And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

Additional verses: Proverbs 1:5-7; Proverbs, 2:12-15; Proverbs, 16:20; Proverbs, 19:20; Colossians 1:10;
2 Timothy 2:15, 3:14-17

√* The check is a recommended scripture to teach the particular lesson.

All verses are from the New King James Version.

Perseverance

Whenever Papa or Mama gave Pokey work to do, he would obey. But after a short while he would grumble, “This is hard work! I’m quitting!”

Successful people know the importance of persevering in spite of difficulties. They are diligent, and they do not let difficulties stop them. They believe in the motto: When the going gets tough, the tough get going.

2 Thessalonians 3:13

But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary in doing good.

1 Timothy 6:12

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

√ Hebrews 6:11-12

And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, [12] that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Hebrews 12:1-3

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, [2] looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

[3] For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

James 1:12

Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

Additional verses: Proverbs 21:5, Daniel 1:5-8, 1 Corinthians 15:58, Ephesians 6:10-18,
2 Thessalonians 2:15-17, Hebrews 10:35-36

Respect for Labor and Self-Discipline Brings Success

Whenever Papa or Mama gave Hardy work to do, he always listened and obeyed. And even when things got hard, Hardy kept working and working.

Hardy was a disciplined and diligent worker. Respect for labor and self-discipline brings success.

√ Proverbs 10:4

He who has a slack hand becomes poor,
but the hand of the diligent makes rich.

Proverbs 12:11

He who tills his land will be satisfied with bread,
but he who follows frivolity is devoid of understanding.

Proverbs 12:24

The hand of the diligent will rule,
but the lazy man will be put to forced labor.

Proverbs 13:4

The soul of a lazy man desires, and has nothing;
but the soul of the diligent shall be made rich.

Hebrews 6:11-12

And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, [12] that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Additional verses: Proverbs 14:23; Proverbs, 21:5; Proverbs, 22:29; 1 Corinthians 15:58; 2 Timothy 2:15

Obeying Parents

Dozey said to Hardy, “Why don’t you be smart and build a house like mine?”

“Oh, no!” said Hardy. “I’m building a strong house. Remember, Papa and Mama warned us about the big bad wolf.”

As Hardy began mixing cement to lay the bricks, he got another visitor—Pokey.

“You’re working much too hard,” warned Pokey. “You need to learn to relax and play. Build a house like mine. You can always build a strong house later when it’s not so hot. Why don’t you come and play with us?”

“Oh, no!” said Hardy. “I’m building a strong house. Remember, Papa and Mama warned us about the big bad wolf.”

Hardy was determined to obey his parents. Wise children do the same.

Proverbs 3:1-2

My son, do not forget my law,
but let your heart keep my commands;
[2] for length of days and long life
and peace they will add to you.

Proverbs 6:20-21

My son, keep your father's command,
and do not forsake the law of your mother.
[21] Bind them continually upon your heart;
tie them around your neck.

Proverbs 13:1

A wise son heeds his father's instruction,
but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.

Ephesians 6:1-3

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. [2] "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: [3] "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."

√ Colossians 3:20

Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.

Additional verses: Exodus 20:12; Proverbs 1:8-9; Proverbs, 4:1-15; Proverbs, 15:5; 1 Timothy 3:4

Being Persecuted for Doing Right

Dozey and Pokey came to watch Hardy work. "Ha! Ha! Ha!" they teased. "We've already finished building our houses, and we're having lots of fun. Ha! Ha! Ha!"

"You can laugh at me," said Hardy, "but I'm listening to Papa and Mama."

Dozey and Pokey walked away laughing as they hurried off to play. Sometimes people will laugh and make fun of you when you want to do that which is right. Those who love the Lord never listen to such individuals.

√ Matthew 5:10-12

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.[11] Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. [12] Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Mark 13:13

And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

John 15:18-19

"If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. [19] If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you."

2 Timothy 3:12

Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

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1 Peter 4:12-14

Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; [13] but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. [14] If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.

Additional verses: Matthew 10:21-22; Matthew, 10:28; Luke 6:22-23; John 16:1-2; John, 17:14; Romans 8:35-37; 2 Corinthians 12:10; 1 John 3:13; 1 Peter 4:16

Seeking Knowledge

At the library, Hardy was looking for books about wolves. He wanted to find a way to get rid of the big bad wolf once and for all.

Hardy was seeking knowledge by going to the library to find out how to build a strong house and how to get rid of the big bad wolf once and for all. Be a seeker of knowledge—you'll never regret it. Going to the library and reading books is an excellent way to learn. Be wise; seek after knowledge.

Proverbs 8:10

Receive my instruction, and not silver,
and knowledge rather than choice gold.

Proverbs 14:6-7

A scoffer seeks wisdom and does not find it,
but knowledge is easy to him who understands.
[7] Go from the presence of a foolish man,
when you do not perceive in him the lips of knowledge.

Proverbs 18:15

The heart of the prudent acquires knowledge,
and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.

√ Proverbs 23:12

Apply your heart to instruction,
and your ears to words of knowledge.

2 Peter 1:5-6

But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, [6] to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness.

Additional verses: Proverbs 1:1-7; Proverbs, 2:6; Proverbs, 9:10; Proverbs, 10:14; Proverbs, 11:9; Proverbs, 12:1; Proverbs, 15:7; Proverbs, 15:14; Proverbs, 19:27; Proverbs, 20:15; Hosea 4:6; 2 Peter 1:5-6

The Law of Sowing and Reaping

Dozey shook all over as he watched the big bad wolf, with just one little puff, blow his house down. “Ohhhhhh!” cried Dozey. “How foolish of me to build such a flimsy house.” Dozey was lazy by building a straw house. Now he reaps what he sowed.

Proverbs 11:18

The wicked man does deceptive work,
but he who sows righteousness will have a sure reward.

Proverbs 22:8

He who sows iniquity will reap sorrow,
and the rod of his anger will fail.

Romans 2:5-10

But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, [6] who “will render to each one according to his deeds”: [7] eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; [8] but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath, [9] tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; [10] but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

2 Corinthians 9:6

But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

√ Galatians 6:7-8

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. [8] For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

Additional verses: Job 4:8, Psalm 126:5-6, Haggai 1:5-11

Listening to Counsel

Pokey and Dozey went to build new, strong houses, just like Hardy’s. They had learned their lessons—listen and work hard.

Pokey and Dozey had finally learned to listen to the counsel of their father and mother. And that is why they lived happily ever after.

Psalm 1:1-3

Blessed is the man
who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,
nor stands in the path of sinners,
nor sits in the seat of the scornful;
[2] but his delight is in the law of the Lord,
and in His law he meditates day and night.
[3] He shall be like a tree

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planted by the rivers of water,
that brings forth its fruit in its season,
whose leaf also shall not wither;
and whatever he does shall prosper.

Proverbs 12:15

The way of a fool is right in his own eyes,
but he who heeds counsel is wise.

Proverbs 13:10

By pride comes nothing but strife,
but with the well-advised is wisdom.

Proverbs 15:22

Without counsel, plans go awry,
but in the multitude of counselors they are established.

√ Proverbs 19:20

Listen to counsel and receive instruction,
that you may be wise in your latter days.

Additional verses: Proverbs 1:5; Proverbs, 9:9; Proverbs, 11:14; Proverbs, 20:18; Proverbs, 24:6; Proverbs, 25:12; 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Questions

1. What were the names of the three little pigs?

The names of the three little pigs were Dozey, Pokey, and Hardy.

2. What would Dozey rather do than listen to Papa and Mama teach?

Dozey would rather do anything than listen to Papa and Mama teach.

Dozey did not want to learn. Wise individuals desire wisdom. The Bible says, “Get wisdom! Get understanding! Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth. Do not forsake her, and she will preserve you; love her, and she will keep you. Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding” (Proverbs 4:5-7).

3. Whenever Papa or Mama gave Dozey work to do, what did he always complain about?

Dozey always complained, “I don’t want to work. I want to play.”

4. Whenever Papa or Mama gave Pokey work to do, what would he do?

Pokey would obey. But after a short while he would grumble, “This is hard work! I’m quitting!”

Successful people know the importance of persevering in spite of difficulties. They are diligent, and they do not let difficulties stop them. They believe in the motto: “When the going gets tough, the tough get going.” The Bible says, “And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises” (Hebrews 6:11-12).

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5. Whenever Papa or Mama gave Hardy work to do, what would he do?

Whenever Papa or Mama gave Hardy work to do, he always listened and obeyed. And even when things got hard, Hardy kept working and working.

Hardy was a diligent worker. Working hard and diligently brings success. The Bible says, “The soul of a lazy man desires, and has nothing; but the soul of the diligent shall be made rich” (Proverbs 13:4).

6. What strong warning did Papa give to Dozey, Pokey, and Hardy before they left?

Papa warned them, “Make sure you build a sturdy house. If you don’t, the big bad wolf can get you. And don’t forget to study to learn how to build a sturdy house.”

7. What did Pokey say after building his straw house?

Pokey said, “Look at the fine house I built. See, I didn’t have to waste my time and study.”

8. What did Pokey say when he found out that the library was far away?

Pokey said, “I don’t need a library. I can figure out by myself how to build a strong house.”

9. When did Pokey say he would build a stronger house?

Pokey said, “I can always build a stronger house later when it’s not so hot.”

10. What did Hardy do even before he started to build his house?

Every day Hardy would take a long walk to the library to learn how to build a strong house.

11. What did Hardy make up his mind to do even though the ground was hard and dry when he began to dig?

Hardy made up his mind that no amount of hard work would stop him from building a strong house.

12. What did Dozey say when he saw Hardy working so hard building his basement?

Dozey said, “Why don’t you be smart and build a house like mine? That way you won’t have to work so hard. Then you too can relax and play.”

13. What did Hardy say when Dozey said, “Why don’t you be smart and build a house like mine? That way you won’t have to work so hard. Then you too can relax and play”?

Hardy said, “Oh, no! I’m building a strong house. Remember, Papa and Mama warned us about the big bad wolf.”

Hardy was determined to obey his parents. Wise children do the same. The Bible says, “Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord” (Colossians 3:20).

14. What did Pokey say to Hardy about working?

Pokey said to Hardy, “You’re working much too hard. You need to learn to relax and play. You can always build a strong house later when it’s not so hot.”

15. What did Hardy say when Pokey said, “You can always build a strong house later when it’s not so hot”?

Hardy said, “Oh, no! I’m building a strong house now. Remember, Papa and Mama warned us about the big bad wolf.”

16. What did Pokey and Dozey say when they came to watch Hardy work the next day?

Pokey and Dozey said, “We’ve already finished building our houses, and we’re having lots of fun. Ha! Ha! Ha!”

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17. What did Hardy say when Pokey and Dozey teased him?

Hardy said, "You can laugh at me, but I'm listening to Papa and Mama."

Dozey and Pokey walked away laughing as they hurried off to play. Sometimes people will laugh and make fun of you when you want to do what is right. Those who are wise don't listen to those who ridicule those who do right. The Bible says, "Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you" (Matthew 5:10-12).

18. What did Dozey and Pokey say when Hardy said, "I'm going to the library"?

Dozey and Pokey said, "Don't be so foolish. You need to learn to stop working and studying so hard. Be like us and have some fun!"

19. What was Hardy looking for at the library?

At the library, Hardy looked for books about wolves. He wanted to find a way to get rid of the big bad wolf once and for all.

Hardy sought knowledge by going to the library to learn how to build a strong house and how to get rid of the big bad wolf once and for all. The Bible says, "Apply your heart to instruction, and your ears to words of knowledge" (Proverbs 23:12).

20. What did the big bad wolf say when he came near Dozey's house?

The big bad wolf said, "I'll blow that house down with just one little puff."

21. When the wolf reached the front of Dozey's house, what did Dozey do?

Dozey dashed through the back wall of his house, running as fast as he could to Pokey's house.

22. What did Dozey say when he saw the big bad wolf blow his house down?

Dozey said, "How foolish of me to build such a flimsy house."

Dozey did not listen to his father and mother. Now he reaps what he sowed. The Bible says, "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life" (Galatians 6:7-8).

23. Where did Dozey and Pokey go when the big bad wolf began blowing Pokey's house down?

Dozey and Pokey ran to Hardy's house.

24. What did Pokey say when he looked around and saw the roof fly off of his house?

Pokey said, "There goes all my hard work."

25. What happened to Hardy's little brick house when the big bad wolf took a deep breath, and a mighty blast of wind ripped across it?

Nothing happened to Hardy's house.

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26. When the wolf was unable to blow Hardy's house down, what did:

A. Pokey shout?

Pokey shouted, "You did it! You built a house that's stronger than the big bad wolf!"

B. Dozey yell?

Dozey yelled, "Hooray! Now he'll finally leave us alone!"

C. Hardy say?

Hardy said, "I don't think so."

27. What did the wolf say when he began to scratch, jump, and pound on the roof?

The wolf said, "I'll show them. I'll make a hole in the roof, and then I'll crawl through."

28. What did the wolf say he would do next when he could not break through the roof?

The wolf said, "I'll just slide down the chimney."

29. What surprise did Hardy prepare for the wolf?

Hardy prepared a big pot of boiling water for the wolf.

30. What did the three pigs do after the big bad wolf was gone?

The three pigs ran outside and danced for joy.

31. What did Pokey and Dozey do after they left Hardy?

Pokey and Dozey went to build new, strong houses just like Hardy's.

32. What lessons did Pokey and Dozey learn?

Pokey and Dozey learned to listen and work hard.

Pokey and Dozey had finally learned to listen to the counsel of their father and mother. And that is why they lived happily ever after. The Bible says, "Listen to counsel and receive instruction, that you may be wise in your latter days" (Proverbs 19:20).