

AN ALL-STAR

by Bonnie Bloomer

"Why didn't I get picked for the All-Star team?" Emma asked.

Emma's mother explained that not everyone could be on the summer traveling team.

"Practice hard," she said.

"Maybe next year you'll make it."

"I'll practice," Emma said.

"And I'll pray every day that God will make me the best!"

"God doesn't give everyone talents to be the best," Mrs. Hall said, "but He gives all of us talents to share with others."

"How can I do that?" Emma asked.

Emma's parents told her to keep an open heart. God would help her know. Two weeks later, Emma's fourth grade teacher handed out flyers.

"Challenger T-ball needs volunteers," Emma read. "Be a buddy to a friend who has a disability!"

When Emma got home she showed her mom the paper. "What does a buddy do?" Emma asked.

"I remember reading about this," Mrs. Hall said.

"Volunteers help players hit, run, catch, and throw."

"What are some disabilities that kids have?" Emma asked.

"Do you remember Brianna?" her mother asked.

"Yeah," Emma said. "She's blind."

"Well, being blind is a disability," Emma's mom said.

"Have you ever seen someone who is deaf and uses sign language to communicate?"

When you see a kid using canes, a walker, or leg braces, often it's



because he has cerebral palsy. A common disability is Down syndrome."

"Can kids who have disabilities play ball?" Emma asked.

"Sure! There are special balls with beepers in them for kids who are blind. Kids who use wheelchairs can play basketball. Many kids who have disabilities participate in Special Olympics."

Mrs. Hall called and arranged for Emma to become a volunteer. Emma was excited but nervous.

Emma and her mom arrived at the park early. The coach matched volunteers to players. Emma's buddy was Maria. Maria had a round face and her eyes were different looking.

The coach said
Maria was 6,
but she acted
like Emma's
4-year-old
cousin. Later,
Emma's mom
told her

Maria had Down syndrome.

Emma showed Maria how to throw and catch the ball. She showed her how to hold the bat. But the toughest thing to teach Maria was to pay attention. Maria liked playing with her shoestrings.

On their way home, Emma told her mom all about her buddy. "She's cool," Emma said. "She'll be a good player, if she'll practice."

"I'm proud of you," her mom said.

"Now I know why God made me a good baseball player," Emma said. "He knew Maria needed me!"

How did Emma use her talents to help Maria?



How can you use your talents to help others?



TOON TIME

BY JENNA LUSBY
ILLUSTRATED BY SCOTT ANGLE



Mom! I have to write a poem for English!

What about your Jesus poem?



Jesus died and rose again,
To save us all from our sin.

Born to live
and die for me,
Jesus went
to Calvary.



I can write poems!
Webster loves me, this is true.
Sure as bubblegum
sticks to your shoe.

just for fun

Word Search

C	A	M	E	M	G
G	M	A	N	O	G
A	Z	S	T	R	L
I	O	T	R	E	D
N	W	E	U	V	N
E	T	R	S	A	S
D	W	I	T	H	G
Z	O	X	E	I	A
S	A	I	D	Y	B



Look forward, up, and down to find the words that are in ALL CAPITAL LETTERS in Matthew 25:22 (NIV) printed here.

“The MAN with TWO BAGS of GOLD also CAME. ‘MASTER,’ he SAID, ‘you ENTRUSTED me WITH two bags of gold; see, I HAVE GAINED TWO MORE.’”

NUMBERS GAME

Read Jesus’ parable in Matthew 25:14-30 (NIV). Answer the questions. Every answer is a number.

1. How many men were going on a journey? _____
2. How many servants did the man have? _____
3. How many bags of gold did each servant receive from the man? _____
4. How many more bags of gold did the first servant earn? _____
5. How many more bags of gold did the second servant earn? _____
6. How many more bags of gold did the third servant earn? _____
7. What verses tell us how the man rewarded the first and second servants? _____
8. What verses tell us how the man rewarded the third servant? _____

WORD SEARCH

S	A	I	D	Y	B
Z	O	X	E	I	A
D	W	I	T	H	G
E	T	R	S	A	S
N	W	E	U	V	N
I	O	T	R	E	D
A	Z	S	T	R	L
G	M	A	N	O	G
C	A	M	E	M	G

NUMBERS GAME

1	1
2	3
3	5, 2, 1
4	5
5	2
6	0
7	21, 23
8	28, 30