

## Weeks 1 - 3 : Bonnie: I'm the King!

Everyone in Sandy Village crowded around the stone bench at the bottom of the mountain where a castle was being built at the top. Stacks of invitations in gold envelopes had appeared on the bench that morning after another rainstorm. Sandy Village was surrounded by water, except for this one mountain. They had built homes as close to the mountain as possible, but when it rained, the water covered the sand and many houses fell apart. The invitation said:

### **You are Invited!**

The King of the Mountain invites you to come live with him in his palace. Those who carefully follow these rules will be allowed in and will always be safe from high waters. I will be watching everyone until my castle is finished.

### **Rules of the King**

*Tell the truth and never lie.*

***Speak** what is right and also **do** what is right*

*Choose what is good for others, not only what is good for yourself.*

*Choose friends who follow the King's rules; stay away from wrongdoers.*

Those who keep these rules will be welcomed into my palace with a great feast.

Signed,

The King of the Mountain

"Finally!" they cheered. "We can be safe and dry!"

At first, everyone worked hard at keeping the King's rules. They read them every morning. But as the weeks passed, some became lazy. It wasn't always easy to follow his rules.

One day, Bonnie and her brother were building a sand castle, trying to make it look like the King's castle. The walls were as high as her head!

"I'm the king!" Bonnie said. "I order you to bring me my staff!"

Her brother hurried off and found a tall stick then hurried back. He bowed.

*I like being King of the Castle!* thought Bonnie.

"Now, bring me a shell!" she ordered.

But her brother asked, "Can I be king this time?"

"No. Not yet," she said. "I still want to be king."

As her brother sadly turned to go, she saw the King's palace on the mountain behind him.

"Wait!" called Bonnie. "You're right. It *is* your turn!" she said. "I was only thinking about what was good for me. I'm sorry. Now - give *me* an order!"

## Weeks 4 - 6 : Leroy: "What Should I Do?"

Leroy's mom read the King's Invitation every morning to Leroy. She had him write the rules on paper and hang it on the wall of his bedroom so he would remember them.

*Tell the truth and never lie.*

**Speak** what is right and also **do** what is right.

*Choose what is good for others, not only what is good for yourself.*

*Choose friends who follow the King's rules, but stay away from wrongdoers.*

"Bye, Mom!" shouted Leroy. "I'm going to Sandy Village playground."

The playground was just a little way from his house. When he arrived, several boys were playing a game of hide and seek and they invited him to join in. He volunteered to be the counter.

"...48, 49, 50. Ready or not here I come!" shouted Leroy. He ran up the slide and found Joe hiding under the bench at the top. When he slid down, he saw a second boy's feet sticking out from the tunnel. "Haha! Pete! Your feet gave you away!" They both laughed.

Melvin had climbed a pile of driftwood at the edge of the playground. Leroy looked everywhere, but couldn't find him. When he passed the pile for the third time, Melvin yelled, "Up here!" then threw a handful of sand at Leroy, hitting him right in the face.

"Hahaha!" Melvin burst out laughing. "I would have been here all day if I hadn't yelled at you!"

Leroy's eyes burned and he was coughing and spitting out sand. Pete and Joe shared their water so he could rinse the sand from his eyes.

They played a few more rounds until it got too hot.

"I'm going fishing at the dock," said Melvin. "Anyone want to come?"

"I can't," said Joe. "I'm going to help my grandpa. His house needs cleaning again after the rain. You guys can come if you want." He glanced up at the mountain. "I can't wait to move to the King's palace!"

"*What should I do?*" thought Leroy. He loved fishing, but he felt uneasy about going with Melvin.

"Thanks, Melvin, but I think I'll go help Joe's grandpa."

## Weeks 7 - 9 : Mimi: "I Couldn't Really See"

Every afternoon, Mimi's mom asked her to go to the King's mountain and bring back a report of what the builders had done that day. She asked Mimi to do this not only to learn of the daily progress, but also so Mimi would have a daily reminder that the King was watching her. She wanted Mimi to remember to keep the King's rules.

While Mimi sat on the stone bench one afternoon, watching the workers finish the roof of the castle, Karla joined her.

"What are you doing?" asked Karla.

"I'm watching the builders so I can tell my mom what they finished today."

"Oh," said Karla. "I'm taking our new puppy to the dock, want to come?"

"You have a puppy?" Mimi perked up. She loved puppies!

"Yes! We just got her. Come on, I'll show you!"

They ran to Karla's. Daisy was bouncing around, full of energy. At the dock, Karla tried to get Daisy to fetch sticks, but she just splashed around in the water.

The next day, as Mimi was on her way to the bench, Karla and Daisy were on their way to the playground.

"It's such a nice day!" said Karla. "I want to teach Daisy to go down the slide. You can help!"

Mimi saw the stone bench just ahead. Going to the playground would be so much fun! She decided to go with Karla first, then stop by the bench on the way home.

The girls took Daisy to the short slide first and Karla held her on her lap. But pretty soon, Daisy was going down alone.

"What a smart dog!" Mimi clapped as Daisy slid down.

"I have to go," said Mimi.

"Maybe you can come again tomorrow!" Karla waved goodbye.

"Did the workers finish the roof today?" Mom asked Mimi when she walked in.

"Oh, no!" thought Mimi. *"I never looked! What should I say?"*

"Wellll," Mimi said slowly. "It was kind of cloudy on the mountain top, so I couldn't really see."

"Cloudy?" Mom gave Mimi a strange look, but Mimi just hurried off to her room.

## Weeks 10 – 12 : Mack: DO What Is Right

"Mack? Did you read over the King's rules today?"

"I don't need to, Mom."

"Yes you do, Mack!" She was going to get them, but he put up his hand to stop her. He then recited them all perfectly!

Mom was astounded! "WOW! That was amazing!" She gave him a high five.

As he walked down the hall, he passed the room of his younger sisters. The TV was blaring. He was about to tell them to turn it down when he saw what they were watching: *In the Cave of Dragons*.

"Are you girls allowed to watch that?" he asked. "Mom and Dad wouldn't be too happy if they walked by right now. You'll have nightmares! Find something better to do."

He spoke the truth and they knew it! They quickly changed the channel.

Mack was going to Ben's house. On his way, he saw a group of boys on the big rock by the water's edge, laughing as they threw stones at seagulls.

"Come on up, Mack!" they called. "We need someone with a good aim to knock off these gulls!"

Mack climbed up and picked up a stone. But he never threw it. He saw the King's mountain and remembered: *Speak what is right and also **do** what is right*. He knew killing birds just for fun was not right.

Suddenly, a loud horn sounded. Everyone in Sandy Village looked up and saw four great white horses carrying the King in his carriage down the mountainside. They rushed to the stone bench. Some were nervous while others were excited.

"I have been watching everyone from above, and today I will give a great feast in my palace to all who have kept my rules!"

One by one he called their names, placing those who obeyed on his right and those who did not obey on his left.

When he finished, those on his right were seated in fancy carriages, including Bonnie, Leroy, and Mack. They and their homes would now be safe with the King.

But Mimi, Melvin, the stone-throwers, and many others were left behind, very sorry they had not followed the King's rules.