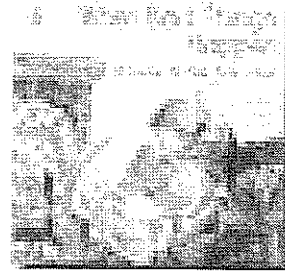


Book Review

Title of Book : When Bad Things Happen
Author of Book : Ted O'Neal
Reviewed by : Kenji Tang (9 Years old)
Date : 6 October 2006



I like reading and always think story books are far more interesting than non-fiction books. The book "*When Bad Things Happen*" is a non-fiction but is really special and I like it very much and have read it more than six or seven times.

This book talks about a lot of bad things which might happen and what we should do to make us do better when these bad things happen. I like it because many things said in the book are very real and may happen to me and to any other people in our world. When I read it, I feel like a grown-up is talking softly and closely to me. Those are all bad things but hearing them doesn't make me feel scared. Instead, I feel stronger as I am not alone.

While I am reading the book, I also think about how those bad things are related to myself.

When I do something wrong or when people do bad things on me, I feel really ashamed and sometimes can't stop my tears. I even hide myself up. Here the book tells me it is alright to be ashamed. Also, I may feel confused, worried, guilty and ... all kinds of bad feelings. They are all normal. How wonderful! I wish all my friends and grown-ups know this important point.

Besides knowing they are all normal, the book also tells me to forgive others. About this, it then exactly points out the true response in my heart that forgiving isn't easy. For example, my elder brother is sometimes mean to me so I really hate him and can't forgive him. However, once I forgive him, I feel good and we can be friends in the next second. There are two important things I have learned. First, the faster I forgive others, the faster I turn happy. Why should I spend much time on making myself and others unhappy? Second, I should never say I would never forgive someone because I am wrong every time.

I have also learned being brave helps me at bad times. Being shy really doesn't help. I have my own examples to tell. When I was small I was really shy and was scared of facing new and uncertain situations. I thought they were frightening and all bad. I

was even scared to shoot a penalty in the soccer game. But now, I am brave as I come up to and can turn some "bads" into "goods" by bravely telling my friends there should be no cheating, no bullying and no bad doings among us. You know, my class has chosen me the Student Councillor of this year. How brave I am now!

Another important thing I learn is to remember the heroes. I have never met heroes, like "Superman" or "Spiderman" so how am I going to remember them? No, I find my own "hero" to remember about. Last Easter, my parents took me and my brother to Japan for holiday. On the second day, a bad thing happened to me. I got very sick in Disneyland and my mother let my father continue the trip with my brother and she took me to the hospital alone. She didn't speak any Japanese and the people there also spoke very little English. She kept asking people many many times and repeating the same things in different ways. Finally, I turned better after taking the dripping and medicine. I never forget how brave my mom was at that time so she is my hero. So, who is the hero to you?

This is such a good book but if I could add one more thing to it, I would tell the readers when bad things happen, they should also try to help others. For example, we can give out some money or some materials to others when they are in need. We can take part in some fund raising activities, like the flag selling. My mother has taken me and my brother to help the new immigrant children in their English learning. We help them and help ourselves to do better and know how lucky we are.

I am going to share this marvelous book with my 6 years old cousin as he easily feels bad about different things. I want him not to cry but feel he is not alone. I will also share this book with my friends when they are at bad times. We should know we really don't have to be scared away by bad things as long as we have God, family and friends around.

- END -

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