CB Pg. 34 Activity 1

Bundle of Sticks

Once upon a time, an old man lived with his three sons in a village. All three of his sons were hard workers. However, they couldn't agree with each other and quarrelled all the time. The old man tried hard to unite them, but he failed. While the villagers admired their hard work and efforts, they also made fun of them for quarrelling.

Months passed by and the old man fell ill. He asked his sons to be united, but none of them listened to his words. So, he decided to teach them a lesson to make them put aside their differences and stay united.

The old man called his sons to him. He told them, 'I will give you a bundle of sticks. You must separate each stick from the bundle and break it into two pieces. The one who breaks the sticks most quickly will be rewarded more.'

The sons agreed. The old man gave a bundle of sticks to each of them. The sons took each stick from the bundle and broke it into pieces within minutes.

They immediately started to quarrel among themselves as to who came first.

The old man said, 'Dear sons, the game is not over. Now I will give you each another bundle of sticks. This time you must break the sticks as a bundle, not as separate sticks.'

The sons agreed and began to try to break their bundle of sticks. Try as they might, they could not break it.

The sons told their father about their failure to complete the task.

The old man replied, 'Dear sons, see! You could easily break the single sticks into pieces, but you were not able to break the bundle! The sticks were the same. If you quarrel with your brothers all the time, you will be easily defeated. But if you stay united, nobody can harm you. I beg you to stay united.'

The three sons finally understood the power of unity and promised their father that whatever the problem, they would all stay together.

Moral: Unity is strength!

1. Where did the old man and his sons live?

2. Why did the villagers admire the sons?

3. Why did the villagers make fun of the sons?

4. What happened when the old man fell ill?

5. What did the old man want his sons to do with the bundle of sticks?

6. How did the old man teach his sons a lesson?

7. What does the story teach us?