



# The Garden Cleanup

“Who can we invite to help with us?”

**By Lucy Stevenson Ewell**  
(Based on a true story)

*This story took place in England.*

Jonah ate his last bite of food and smiled. Dinner was always more fun when the missionaries came over.

“We want to share a message with you about service,” said Sister Kearl. “Why is serving others important?”

“Because it makes Jesus happy!” said Eliza, Jonah’s little sister.

“You’re right! It makes Him very happy. And when we help others, it makes us happy too,” said Sister Christensen. “Do you know anyone who needs help?”

Jonah thought for a minute. “I can’t think of a person, but our garden at school could use some help.”

“Good idea,” said Mum.

Jonah’s school had a garden where they could do outdoor activities. But no one had taken care of the garden for a long time. The bushes were overgrown. There were lots of weeds too.

“We’d love to help you with that!” said Sister Kearl. “Who can we invite to help clean it with us?”

“Our cousins!” said Jacob, Jonah’s brother.

“And our Primary class,” said Jonah.

The next day, Mum talked to someone at the school to get permission. They picked a day to clean the garden. Then Mum helped Jonah and his siblings call their cousins and Primary class.

A few weeks later, Jonah and his family met the missionaries at the school. Their

cousins and Primary friends were there too. It was time to get to work!

Jonah put on a pair of big rubber garden gloves. “Look, Mum. My hands are huge!”

Mum laughed. “You can use those huge hands to help trim these bushes.”

She handed Jonah some clippers that looked like giant scissors. Then she helped him cut away the dead branches.

“This is fun,” Jonah said.

While Jonah trimmed, Eliza helped dig around the garden. Jacob helped Daddy build a new bird house. The others pulled weeds and gathered sticks. They put them in big blue plastic bags. Even Jonah’s youngest brother, Ezra, helped by picking up rocks.

Soon the garden was clean. Jonah counted the bags they had filled. “There are 13 bags!” he said. “We cleaned up so much rubbish.”

Sister Christensen smiled. “Now we need everyone’s big muscles to help us carry these to the car.”

Jonah, Jacob, and Eliza each grabbed a bag. Jonah felt happy as he lifted the last one into the car. Helping the missionaries had been fun. He wanted to be a missionary someday too. Until then, there were lots of ways he could serve. He could hardly wait to think of his next project! ●

What can you do to help in your neighborhood?