



Who could Vanessa give the bag to?

By Lucy Stevenson Ewell
(Based on a true story)

This story happened in Nicaragua.

Vanessa waved goodbye to Mami and walked into the church building. Some of her friends were already here! She loved Primary activities.

Sister Fonseca was setting up a craft table. There were ribbons, colored strings, and stickers. Vanessa

couldn't wait to find out what they would be making!

After the prayer, Sister Fonseca gave some instructions. "Today we will make gift bags. You can give them to someone you love." She handed a brown paper bag to each child.

Vanessa was excited to start decorating. She chose a yellow heart sticker and put it on the front of the bag.

Next, Vanessa folded a paper to make a card. "You are a child of God," she wrote. She drew lots of stars and hearts on it.

Sister Lopez passed out some cookies and cupcakes to put inside their bags. Vanessa put the card inside too. Perfect!

Soon Mami came to pick her up. "Look!" Vanessa held her bag up for Mami to see. "It's to give to someone special."

"Beautiful!" Mami said. "Who will you give it to?"

"I don't know," Vanessa said. "I want to give it to someone who needs love." Then Vanessa had an idea. "Can we go for a walk to find someone to give it to?"

"Sure," Mami said. "Let's go!"

Vanessa held Mami's hand and carried her bag of love in her other hand. They turned down a quiet street. *Maybe someone here needs love*, Vanessa thought.

But as they walked, Vanessa frowned. There was no one on the street!

"Let's try going this way." Mami led Vanessa down another road. But again, no one was outside.

Vanessa sighed. "What should we do?" she asked.

"Why don't you say a prayer in your heart?" Mami said. "Ask Heavenly Father to guide you to someone you can help."

They turned down one more street, and Vanessa said a silent prayer. *Heavenly Father, please help me find someone who needs some love.*

A few minutes later, Vanessa saw a little boy walking on the sidewalk.

Vanessa's face lit up with a smile. "Hi," she said to him. "I want to give this to you." She held out the bag.

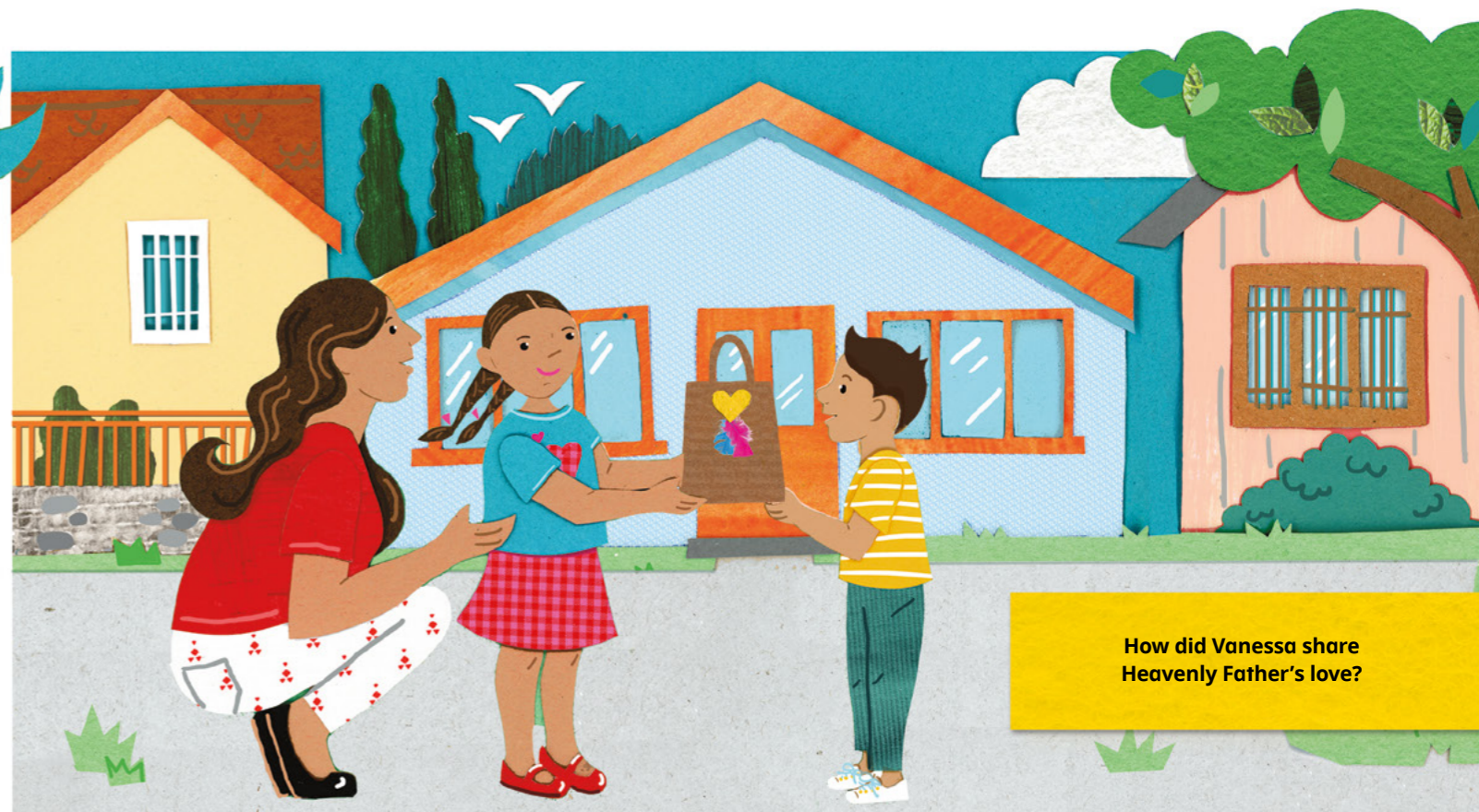
At first, the boy looked confused.

"It's OK. You can take it," Mami said gently.

Slowly, the boy reached out and took the bag. A big smile spread across his face.

"I made it for you with a lot of love," Vanessa said.

Vanessa felt happy as she watched the boy run back to his house. She knew he was special to Heavenly Father. ●



ILLUSTRATIONS BY VICKY SCOTT

How did Vanessa share Heavenly Father's love?