THE **Dart** *DISASTER*

Was Daniel brave enough to tell the truth?

By Kimberly Oldroyd
(Based on a true story)

This story happened in the USA.

Daniel lifted the lid off Grandpa's old toybox and peeked inside. His cousins gathered around to see. They loved to play together at Grandpa's house!

Inside were lots of old toys that Daniel's mom and aunt had played with when they were kids.

"What are those?" Daniel's cousin Noah pointed to six shiny, old-fashioned lawn darts. They had pointy ends and colored flags—some red and some yellow.

Daniel picked one up. "My mom told me about these," he said. "You put a hoop on the lawn outside. Then you take turns throwing these up in the air and try to get them to land in the hoop."

"Cool!" said Noah. He was already running to the yard to set up the game.

Soon Daniel and his cousins were launching the metal lawn darts in the air all around Grandpa's yard. Daniel liked it when the darts landed hard and stuck in the grass.

"I bet I can throw mine higher than yours," said Daniel's cousin Lily.

The kids laughed and threw the darts higher and higher.

Then Daniel had an idea. "I bet I can throw mine all the way across the driveway and into the hoop!" he said. He ran to the other side of the driveway and threw the dart hard.

The dart flew high into the air, but it didn't land in the grass. Instead it fell onto Aunt Robilyn's brand-new car with a loud *THUD*.

"Oh no!" yelled Noah.

Daniel picked up the dart. There was a giant dent on the car where it had landed.

The kids looked at each other with dread. Then, without saying anything, they left the darts on the lawn and ran inside.

Later that afternoon, everyone went to their cars to go home. Daniel's aunt noticed the dent on her car. "What happened?" she asked.

Daniel's stomach felt heavy. But he didn't say anything. He just climbed into the car and waved goodbye to his cousins.

On the drive home, Daniel sat quietly in the backseat. He tried to read his book. But he couldn't focus. He felt sick inside about what happened. He knew being honest was the right thing to do. But telling the truth would be awful! His parents would be so mad at him. So would his aunt.

Then Daniel thought about his favorite scripture hero. Daniel in the Old Testament was thrown into the lions' den for choosing the right. He was brave. Maybe Daniel could be brave too.

"Hey, Mom?" Daniel said. "I threw a lawn dart, and it hit Aunt Robilyn's car and made the dent. It was my fault."

Mom glanced at him in the rearview mirror. She wasn't as mad as Daniel thought she would be. "Thanks for telling me the truth," she said.

Daniel took a deep breath. "Can I call Aunt Robilyn when we get home?" he asked. "I want to say sorry. And I'll work hard to earn the money to pay to fix her car."

Mom smiled. "That's a great idea."

The heavy feeling in his stomach was gone, and Daniel felt peaceful. He had been brave enough to tell the truth. Because of Jesus Christ, he could repent and make things right. ●

How did Daniel feel when he told the truth and repented?