

# Bug Bites and BLESSINGS

*Carlos needed help.*

**By Jane McBride**  
(Based on a true story)  
*This story happened in the USA.*

Carlos frowned at himself in the bathroom mirror. His face and arms were bright pink. His sunburn was worse than he thought. And he had lots of itchy bug bites on his arms and legs. Hiking with his Primary class was fun, but now his skin hurt all over!

Carlos looked at his backpack on the floor. The sunscreen and bug spray Mom had packed were still inside. He should have used them like she told him to. But he thought he didn't need them.

Carlos opened the cabinet and found the little bottle his mom always used for sunburns. He rubbed the gel on his face. It felt

cool on his hot skin.

Next Carlos put the gel on his arms. But he couldn't find the bug-bite cream. Soon he gave up. He needed help. He would have to talk to Mom.

He found her in the kitchen. When she saw his sunburned face, she looked worried. Carlos thought she would get mad at him for not wearing sunscreen. But

she didn't.

"Are you OK?" she asked. "That must really hurt."

"Yeah." His head hung down. "Will you help me? Please?"

"Of course." Mom led Carlos to the bathroom. She looked in the cabinet and pulled out a little tube.

"This should help the bites to stop itching," she said. She rubbed a tiny bit of cream on each bite.



ILLUSTRATION BY MARY SULLIVAN

"There," she said, closing the tube. "I hope that helps you feel better."

"Thanks, Mom." Carlos looked down at the floor. "I'm sorry I didn't use the stuff you packed for me. I should have listened to you. I thought I knew best, but I didn't."

She pressed a kiss to the top of his head. "You're welcome. Sometimes I think I know best too.

Then Heavenly Father shows me that I didn't know best at all." She lowered her voice to a whisper. "Even grown-ups can make mistakes."

Carlos laughed. Then he frowned. "If I had obeyed you, I wouldn't hurt so much right now."

"I think that's how a lot of Heavenly Father's children feel when they disobey Him," Mom

## COMMANDMENTS ARE A BLESSING

Heavenly Father gives us commandments because He loves us. He wants us to stay safe and make good choices so we can live with Him again. When we obey Him and stay on the covenant path, He blesses us (see Mosiah 2:41). And when we disobey, we can repent and try again because of Jesus Christ and His Atonement.

said. "They wish they'd listened to Him. And He hurts for His children when they're in pain, just like I hurt for you now."

"But He can help them feel better," said Carlos. "Just like you helped me. Right?"

Mom smiled. "Right! When we repent, Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ can help us. And then we can make better choices in the future."

Carlos smiled too. His sunburn and bug bites still hurt, but he knew he would heal. And next time, he could make a better choice! ●