

# Cheering for Both Teams

By Ashley Stark  
(Based on a true story)

This story happened in South Korea.

Jayne took one last bite of her noodles. *Mmmm.* Delicious!

"Let's play Yut Nori!" Uncle Ji-Ho said.

It was that time of year again! Her family was celebrating *Chuseok*, Korean Thanksgiving. Today Jayne's family had gathered to eat lots of food and play Yut Nori together. Yut Nori was Jayne's favorite game.

Everyone sat in a circle on the floor. Jayne looked around. What team did she want to be on? She scooted over to sit next to Uncle Ji-Ho. "I want to be on your team!" she said. "We're going to be the big winners!"

Uncle Ji-Ho laughed. "With you on our team, we sure have a good chance!"

Jayne's mom set the game board in the middle of the circle. Jayne helped her set out the pieces. They passed the four sticks to the team that would go first.

Jayne's cousin Ana took the first turn. She threw the sticks into the air. The way the sticks landed showed how many spaces that team could move on the game board. All four sticks were facing down, which meant that Ana got a Yut! She got to move her team's piece forward four spaces *and* got an extra turn.

But Ana was not on Jayne's team.

Jayne frowned. She didn't want the other team to win!



Jayne folded her arms and frowned. "I was hoping she wouldn't have a good throw," she whispered to Uncle Ji-Ho.

"Cheer up!" Uncle Ji-Ho said. "The game just started." He gave her an encouraging smile.

After Ana's second turn, Jayne's team threw the sticks. But they didn't get to move their pieces as far as Ana's team did.

With every turn, Jayne's family members cheered and laughed. Jayne watched the game pieces move around the board. Everyone was having fun.

Everyone but Jayne. Her team was still losing.

Finally it was Jayne's turn. She threw the sticks in the air, but only one landed face down. Her team's piece moved forward only one space.

Jayne folded her arms. "I quit!" she yelled. "I wanted us to win."

Suddenly, everyone was quiet. When she looked up, her family was staring at her. They seemed surprised that she was so angry.

Jayne's face felt hot. She felt bad that she wasn't happy for her family. She didn't usually get so mad. She stood up to leave the circle.

Uncle Ji-Ho put a hand out. "You don't have to leave," he said. "Winning isn't everything. Just try to have fun."

"OK." Jayne sat back down. She wanted to have fun like everyone else. She took a deep breath and watched her cousin Ben toss the sticks.

"Nice turn, Ben!" Uncle Ji-Ho said. He sounded happy.

Jayne looked at Uncle Ji-Ho with wide eyes. He was cheering for the other team! Maybe that was why he was having so much fun.

As the next turn began, Jayne decided to cheer for everyone on *both* teams. Uncle Ji-Ho was right. Winning wasn't everything. Jesus could help her be happy for her family members even if she lost.

When it was Ana's turn again, Jayne smiled at her. "Good luck! You've got this."

From across the circle, Ana smiled back. Jayne felt warm inside. She was having more fun already! ●

"So much in life depends on our attitude. The way we choose to see things and respond to others makes all the difference."  
President Thomas S. Monson (1927–2018), "Living the Abundant Life," *Liahona*, Jan. 2012, 4.