

Brave Enough

By Noelle Lambert Barru
(Based on a true story)

This story happened in Taiwan.

"Are you ready?" Terry's older sister, Hailey, popped her head into his room. "It's time to go practice for the Christmas play."

Oh yeah! Terry and Hailey were in a special play for their ward Christmas party.

"Almost ready!" Terry pulled on his jacket and walked to the front door. "Who else will be there?"

"Mia and Jake. And some kids from Jake's school," Mom said. "The other kids don't go to our church, but they're excited to help."

Terry froze. He didn't realize there would be kids he didn't know at the practice. There was no way he would be brave enough to say his lines in front of them.

"I don't want to go anymore," Terry said.

"Why not?" Mom asked.

"I don't know the other kids," Terry said. He always got nervous talking to new people.

"But you can make new friends. And I'll be there with you," Hailey said.

Terry shook his head. "Maybe next time. Can we practice my lines at home for now?"

Terry froze. He didn't realize there would be kids he didn't know at play practice.



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Mom nodded. "OK. But if you want to be in the play, you'll need to practice with the other kids soon."

Terry liked practicing at home. It was easy! But he knew he needed to practice with the other kids too.

At family prayer a few nights later, Terry had an idea.

"Can we pray that I'll have courage to join the practice?" Terry said. "Maybe Heavenly Father can help me."

"Of course," Dad said. "Good idea."

They all closed their eyes and folded their arms.

"Dear Heavenly Father," Dad prayed, "please help Terry to have the courage to go to play practice."

On the day of the next practice, Terry walked into the church with Mom and Hailey. His heart was beating fast, but he wanted to try. He felt ready. *Heavenly Father and Jesus must be helping me!* he thought.

"Terry! We're so glad to see you," Sister Tee said.

Terry smiled and nodded. Lots of other kids were already talking and laughing. He saw Jake and Mia. But he didn't know the others.

LIGHT THE WORLD

Has your ward planned a Christmas activity too? Invite a friend to come with you!

Sister Tee told the kids where to sit and when to speak while they practiced. Terry was still nervous to sit by kids he didn't know, but he tried to remember Dad's prayer. It helped him feel better.

They practiced the songs and their lines over and over. The kids sitting by Terry were fun. They made him laugh a lot!

A few days later, it was time to for the play. The church was decorated with lots of Christmas trees, lights, and ribbons. Everyone wore red and green.

Terry hardly felt nervous anymore. He liked being with the other kids, even the ones he didn't know before!

During the play, Terry felt good. And when it was his turn to speak, he said his lines loud and clear.

After the play, Terry found his family. "Great job!" Dad said.

Mom smiled. "You looked like you had a lot of fun."

"I did! I'm glad I was brave enough to do it," Terry said.

Terry couldn't have done it without Mom, Dad, Hailey, and Heavenly Father. Praying for help and being brave was totally worth it! ●