

Small Wonders

Percy's First Annual Yearly Tea Party

The Toys learn they are made with a purpose.

Lesson Link: Made in the image of God out of love and with a special purpose. The main reason God created us is because of love. Out of love, he created us in his image as bearers of an eternal soul, called to reflect him in all that we do. He made us male and female, with specific intentions for who and what we are. There are many in our world who deny that God made us, or that we were created with a purpose. As Catholics, we believe that God calls us to fulfill what he has created us to be and to do.

One day Percy paced around his den. He wished he had company. The other Toys didn't visit Percy very often because he was persnickety and would tell them in a bossy way, "Don't sit *there*; sit *over there*," or, "Take off your shoes when you come in" (even if they didn't have shoes).

Percy had an idea. *I'll invite everyone to a big Tea Party. It will be the First Annual Yearly Tea Party. Everyone will have to come because any event with the word "annual" in it sounds too important to miss.*

Percy began to tidy up his den for the big event. Then he remembered that his big wooden table had a broken leg.

"Oh no!" Percy said. "How am I supposed to have a Tea Party without a table?"

He gave it some thought and had another idea.

"The table is made of wood," he said. "And so is Pinnetti the Puppet!"

Percy went to see Pinnetti. "You will be the perfect table for my Tea Party," Percy said.

"I will?" Pinnetti asked. He was excited to be the perfect anything. "But I'm a puppet, not a table."



"Are you sure?" Percy asked. "You are made of wood, like a table. If you get down on your hands and knees, you're just like a table."

Pinnetti would have rubbed his chin if he had one. "I hadn't thought of that."

Pinnetti went back to Percy's den. Pinnetti got down on his hands and knees.

"Keep still," Percy said as he placed a large flat board on Pinnetti's back. He draped it with a tablecloth and then on top of it placed cups and saucers and pots for tea and bread and butter and jam.

“That’s heavy,” Pinnetti said.

“Tables shouldn’t complain,” said Percy.

Percy looked around and realized he didn’t have a coatrack for his guests. He had another idea and scampered off. Soon he returned with the General, who was a stuffed toy that looked like a Nebraska Buck Deer, including antlers with six points. Percy told the General to stand in the corner. “You are a wonderful coatrack,” Percy said.

“Imagine that,” the General said in a low, deer-like voice. “All these years I thought I was a deer.”

Percy began to think of all the other things he needed for his First Annual Yearly Tea Party—and went off to get help.

Two hamsters named Him and Her became seat cushions.

Reptalica, the giant bearded dragon, became a candle holder.

Kevin the Duck’s bill became a bottle opener. “Just in case my guests don’t like tea,” Percy told him.

Liszt the Lazy Lion was spread out to be a rug.

Overbite the Beaver became a bean bag chair. He was put next to Pencil-Neck the Brachiosaurus, who was now a couch.

Percy was pleased. “Now all I need are my guests,” he said.

But most everyone he knew were now tables and cushions and seats and racks.

“Less tea to serve,” Percy said and went off to invite the rest of the Toys.

Granna was the first to arrive and said, “Well, isn’t this lovely.”

Then she saw the General as a coat rack and the two hamsters as cushions and the beaver as a bean bag chair and the brachiosaurus as a couch and the bearded dragon as a candle holder and Kevin the Duck as a bottle opener and, lastly, Pinnetti as the table.

“What is all this?” Granna asked.

“None of us are what we thought we were,” Pinnetti said. “Percy has shown us the truth.”

Percy smiled proudly.

Granna shook her head and carefully took everything off of Pinnetti’s back. “The Toymaker made you a loveable puppet, not a table,” she said.

“Are you sure?” Pinnetti asked as he stood up.

“Of course.” Granna went around the room and said, “The Toymaker loves us very much and made us to be exactly what we are.”

“I’m a bean bag chair!” Overbite said and folded his arms, which was a very strange thing for a bean bag chair to do.

“No, you aren’t,” Granna said. “You’re a beautiful beaver.”

“But I *could* be a bean bag chair,” Overbite said.

“You *could* be,” said Granna. “But don’t you think the Toymaker knew what he was doing when he made you a beaver?”

“What about my First Annual Yearly Tea Party?” Percy complained.

“We can have it on the floor,” Granna said.

“Not on me you won’t,” said Liszt the Lazy Lion. “I’m a *decorative* rug.”

He had been napping and hadn’t been listening at all.

Granna laughed. “Then we’ll have our tea over *there*.”

So the Toys all gathered for Percy’s First Annual Yearly Tea Party. And none of them had to be what they weren’t made to be.

Questions:

1. **What lesson did you learn from this story?** (God loves us and made us exactly how he wants us to be.)
2. **Do you believe God made you the way you are on purpose?** (Yes.)