

STCHM: Spiritual lesson learned on a gym floor

June 12, 2015

Since my arrival at the South Texas Children's Home Ministries, I have been praying God will bless my efforts this summer and use me, even though I may or may not reap the harvest or see my impact just yet. I am trying to be faithful and keep in mind that when you work with kids, sometimes you can't see the harvest for years to come.



Katie Burkhead While leading open gym with my fellow summer workers, the Holy Spirit clearly tapped me on the shoulder and gave me a visual picture to remind me God is always working. After a game of dodge ball, my partners for the summer and I were leading a game of line tag in the gym. Two people are "it," and they have to chase the other kids all over the gym, while staying within the basketball court lines on the gym floor.

Samuel, a good-hearted and really respectable young man, was it and was chasing and tagging just like he was supposed to. He was following all of the rules and was doing a really good job carrying out his role in the game. Two younger girls, Julie and Raven, were running along the lines of the basketball court, giggling and having a good time together, just like they were supposed to.

Both parties were successfully carrying out their roles within the game, when Samuel went to go and tag Julie, who had turned her head to make sure she wasn't being followed from behind. While he was performing his job and Julie was performing hers, Julie was not prepared to be tagged by Samuel, and they both crashed to the ground.

As one of the adults in the room, I saw the big picture. Samuel had no intention of hurting Julie when he tagged her. He was just trying to do his job. Julie was not trying to get tagged, she was checking behind her to make sure no one was chasing her.

It was like the Holy Spirit opened my eyes and God was saying: "See, my child. You are the one playing line tag. Only I can see the big picture and know how your efforts will affect these kids in the long run. Trust in me, do as you are called, and but don't forget to take a look around and see where others are. Don't get locked in your own little world." It was definitely an "Aha!" moment.

With this newfound wisdom fresh in my head, I ran over and explained what had happened to the kids, since neither could see or understand the other's motives. With a brief explanation and some apologies, within a minute they were back to playing line tag and chasing and running. This was a vivid picture of an answer to my prayers.

Wherever you find yourself in life, be faithful in all areas—big and small, insignificant and significant. Remember, only God can see the big picture. He is in control, writing a beautiful story, and he will be faithful.

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