

Thomas and His Pet Goldfish

Thomas watched as his three goldfish darted about in a large fishbowl. He had bought them at the pet shop yesterday, and he loved watching them swim about and open their little mouths when it was time to eat.

“Remember to feed them once every day,” Father had said.

“I will,” promised Thomas, and he did, for a while. The fish tank was in the foyer, so when Thomas returned from school, he would drop a pinch of food into the bowl.

While Thomas was good at remembering to feed his fish, he wasn't as good at remembering to clean the fishbowl, and soon Mother and Father frequently reminded Thomas that the water was turning murky and green and needed to be changed.



One day, Zuri came by the house for a play date. “You have fish! Fun!” Zuri exclaimed.

“Yes,” Thomas said proudly. “I feed them myself.”

“Let’s play with them. I bet I could catch one,” Zuri said, looking about for something to use as a fish net.

“I don’t know...” Thomas said, feeling concerned.

“Hey, I can use my hand!” And with that, Zuri pushed his hand in the water and began chasing the goldfish, trying to touch one.

Thomas laughed at Zuri, and at how the fish were moving more than they normally did. He pushed aside his concern as the fish darted this way and that.

“Let’s go play in your yard,” Zuri said, losing interest in the fish.

“Okay,” agreed Thomas. And off they went.



The next morning, however, Thomas faced a sad surprise. One of the fish in his fishbowl had died and now floated about at the top of the water.

“Oh, Dad!” Thomas cried, showing his dead fish to his father. “It was Zuri. Zuri did it! He was trying to catch my fish with his hand, and now one of my fish is dead.”

Dad put his arms around Thomas and patted his back. “Yes, it is a bit sad to have one of your fish die. However, I don’t think we can place all the blame on Zuri.”

“He did it,” Thomas protested. “He was the one to put his hand in the fishbowl.”

“Did you tell him not to?”

“N-nooo... I didn’t know it would make one of my fish die!”



“Well, now you know for next time. But, Thomas, there are also ways that you can be taking better care of your fish to help keep them healthy.”

“Really?”

“Yes, and I think you know what I’m talking about. It’s important for your fish to have clean water to swim in.”

“I see, Dad. I will take better care of my fish from now on,” Thomas said earnestly.

From that day on, Thomas was very faithful to both feed his fish and clean their fishbowl. When Zuri came over to play and wanted to put his hand in the bowl again, Thomas told him not to, and explained to Zuri what had happened. Zuri apologized and pledged to be more careful in the future.

Verse: Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might. Ecclesiastes 9:10 NIV.

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