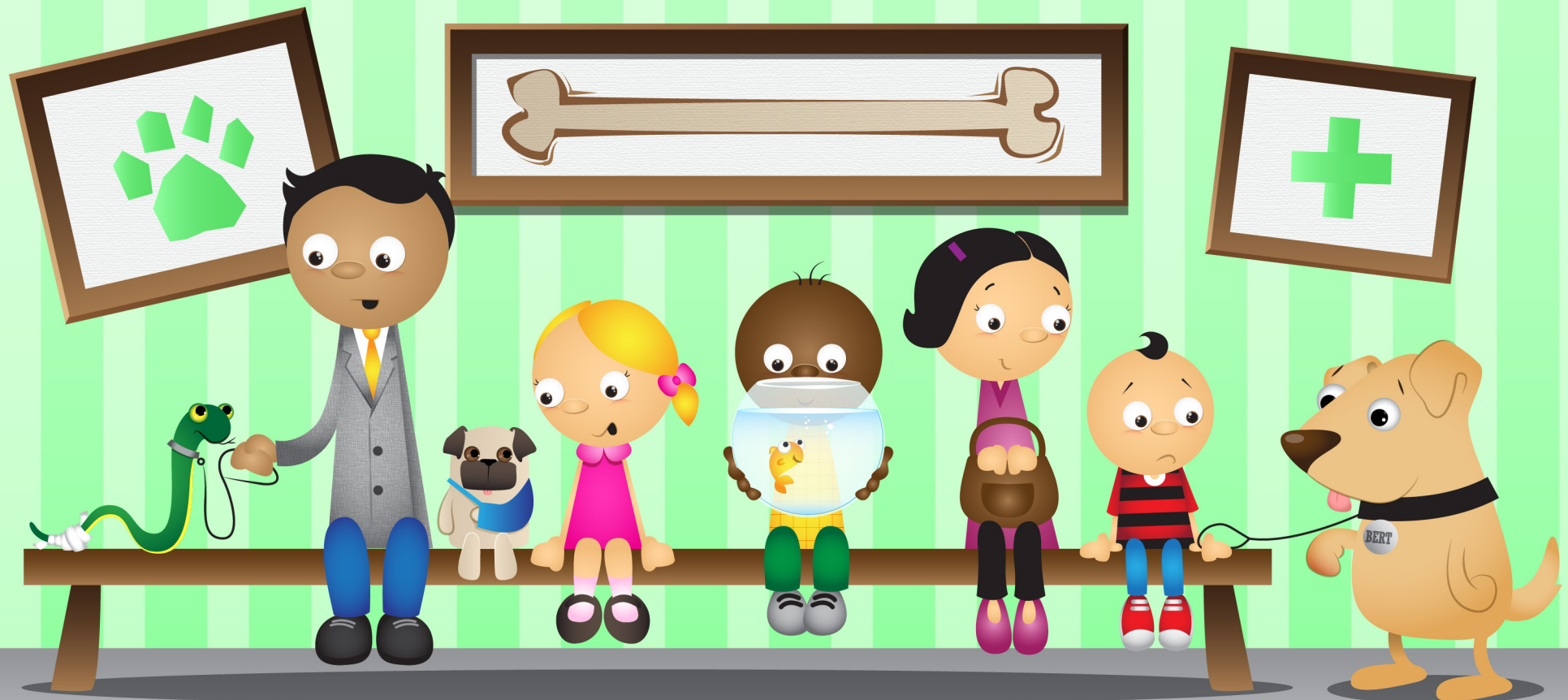


Waiting and Trusting

“We need to sit here and wait, Neil,” Mom said. “The doctor won’t be long. Don’t worry about Bert; he will be all right.”

“But, Mom, I want to be with Bert when he sees the vet,” Neil pleaded as he sat in the waiting room at the vet’s office.

Bert, a Labrador, was Neil’s best friend. Neil felt certain that Bert was the best dog a boy could have. Bert’s front paw was badly swollen, which caused him to limp, so Neil’s mom took Bert to see the vet. Neil didn’t know what was wrong with Bert’s paw, which worried him.





“Will the vet be able to help Bert?” Neil asked his mom. “Will it hurt Bert when the doctor looks at his paw?”

“Neil, worrying about Bert won’t make him or you feel any better,” his mom said. “The vet is an excellent doctor and will take good care of Bert. Why don’t you pray and ask Jesus to take care of Bert too?”

Neil waited on a bench outside the office, and hoped no one would see that he was crying. All he could think about was how sad Bert had looked and how he wouldn’t understand why Neil wasn’t with him. Neil sniffled and then prayed silently that Jesus would be with his dog and help him not to be afraid.



“Hey, buddy, what’s up?”

Neil looked up. A man stood close by with a small box under his arm. “Is your pet inside?”

Neil nodded, as he wiped away his tears.

“What’s your pet’s name?” the kind man asked.

“Bert.”

“Oh, I know Bert! I’m Dr. Jones, and I’m going to see Bert right now.”

Neil smiled. “Really, you’re the doctor?”

“That’s right. You don’t have anything to worry about. I’ll have Bert looked at in no time. He probably just has a thorn in his paw that needs a little care.”



The doctor handed Neil a cookie from the box he carried, “A cookie for you”—and he handed Neil a special dog treat—“and something for Bert when I’m done looking at his paw.”

“Thank you!” Neil said, feeling better already. Not only had he met the doctor, but he was happy to know that his dog was in the hands of a caring man.

And sure enough, it was just a thorn in Bert’s paw, and with a little extra care and time, Bert was running and playing with Neil. As good as new!

Neil learned a valuable lesson that day. Worry didn’t help, but it did help to have faith that things would work out. And they did!

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart”
(Proverbs 3:5).

Adapted by Devon T. Sommers, based on a story by Vivian Kaskow. Illustrations by Alvi. Design by Stefan Merour.

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