

# *I Want to Do Something for God – Together With You!*

by Carina Lillbäck-Larsson  
Children's Ministry Director  
Swedish Union Conference  
Trans-European Division

*The aim of this story is to show children and their parents that doing things together can be much more fun than doing them all by yourself. It also challenges children to say to their parents: "I want to do something for God—together with you!" Bring things to illustrate what you can do in a kitchen: pots, lids, spoons, and an apron.*

Once upon a time, there was a boy. I'll call him Stefan. Stefan was 7-years-old and lived with his mum and dad and his little sister in an apartment house. Now Stefan's life was good—he had clothes, he was sure his bed was the most comfortable bed on the whole planet, and he had plenty of things and friends to play with. His parents were fairly normal parents; most of the time they were kind, though once in a while Stefan thought they were a bit unfair. Yet he still loved them both with all his heart. Sometimes, though, he couldn't understand what his mother was thinking.

Stefan's mum did most of the cooking in his family. She made him breakfast in the morning, gave him fruit to take to school, made him sandwiches when he came home, and made supper for him and the whole family in the evening. Since Stefan was growing fast, he was constantly hungry. Mother had to cook a lot for her hungry boy and the rest of the family to have enough. She stood by the stove day out and day in.

One day, Stefan had an idea. He had watched his mother cooking and it all looked quite exciting—all those pots and pans simmering with deliciously smelling food, all those bags with colourful ingredients and spices. He noticed too that she seemed rather tired.

"I'm going to offer Mum my help!" Stefan thought to himself. So he turned to his mother, excited with his wonderful idea: "Mum, can I help you?"

Unexpectedly, mother replied, "No, not now," and continued peeling potatoes. Disappointed, puzzled and confused, Stefan walked away. This was one of those times when he couldn't understand what his mother was thinking. He knew she was tired, but when he had offered to help, she said 'no.' Why?

*(Ask the children why they think the mother said 'no' to Stefan's offer.)*

There might be several reasons why mother said 'no,' just as you have mentioned. I think that grown-ups say 'no' to children sometimes because some of the chores, like cooking on the stove, are dangerous for children to do. Sometimes the jobs can really only be done by adults, as much as children would like to help. But sometimes we grown-ups might not even know why we say 'no.' That's why I'd like you children to help me with something.

You know Jesus once said, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40). That means that when we help someone who needs help, we show Jesus (who is God) that we love Him.

There are a lot of people who need help, we all know that!

So this is what I'd like you to do: Think of something you can help someone with. Maybe it's helping around the house, or helping a friend or a neighbour. I'd like you to tell your parents or the adults you live with that it is fun

when you and they do things together! Say, "I'd like to do something for God—together with you!" Then tell them what you'd like to help with. I'm sure your mum and dad will be happy that you want to do that. They may not be able to do it right away, but I'm sure they'll plan time to do something for God—together with you!