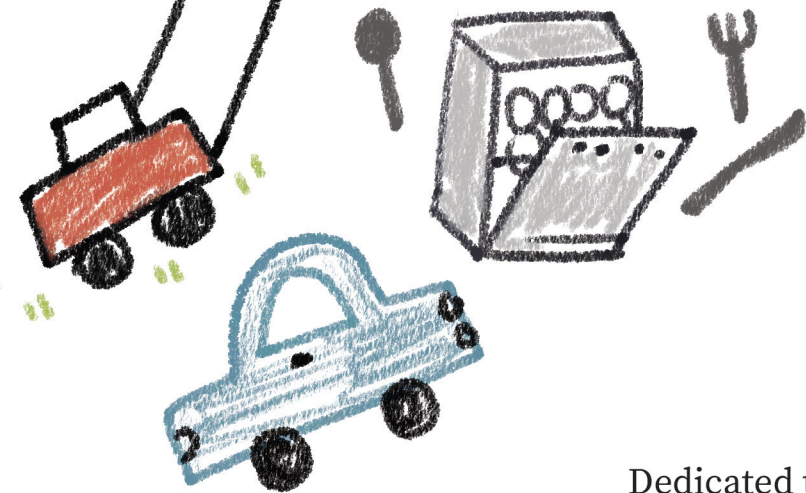


Levi the Lion LEARNS Generosity

BY TIMMY BAUER





Dedicated to Levi Bauer.

Levi, we decided to publish this book in celebration of your first birthday. We pray that you would grow to have a generous heart; we love you more than words could ever express. God bless you today and forever.

- Dada and Mama

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Levi the Lion LEARNS Generosity



In a small town, there was a Treasure Shop filled with exciting stuff.





Levi was the Prince of the Treasures.

His dad was the owner of the shop.

And Jumpy his Dfrog*
was his deputy.

*Note: a Dfrog is kind of like
a dog, but actually a frog.

But Levi loved the treasures.

Not for giving them to other people. . . but for himself.



Oh no!

Not Levi!

Surely he'll change!

When customers would come into the
treasure shop,



Levi would hide his favorite gifts
so no one would buy them.

Oh no! The horror!



Suddenly, the shop was becoming very empty.



Dad wondered why...

Uh oh,
do you see what Levi is doing?



“Levi, these gifts are so people can buy them for others.”

“But Dad, if we let that happen... we’ll have less.”



Hmm, what could Dad do to teach Levi the meaning of stuff?



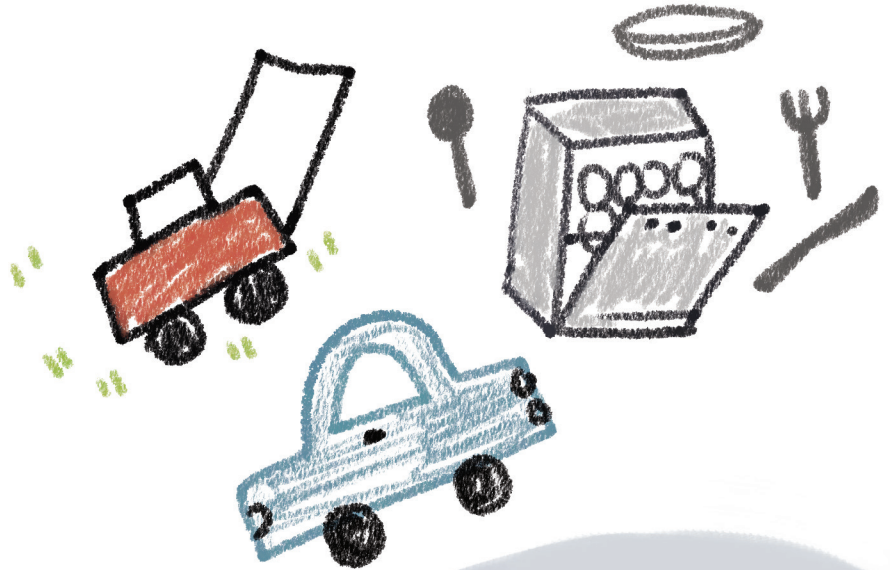
Dad had an idea.

He pulled out a list of names and some money.

He told Levi that he sometimes
uses the store's money to get
gifts for kids in need.



“But Dad!” Levi exclaimed,
“If we give our money to others, we’ll have less for us.
Don’t you want to buy new things?”



“Dad must have a bunch of
extra money lying around,”
Levi thought.



Dad laughed.

“I don’t give because I have extra, Levi.

I give for a bunch of reasons:

1. I’ve been given so much;
2. Blessing others is the real purpose of stuff;
3. I have a secret to tell you, giving is one of the most fun things you can do with stuff.”

Levi was barely even listening.



Jumpy the Dfrog was trying to get him to pay attention, but it wasn't working.



“When we have a heart of generosity, God always takes care of our needs.” Dad finished.

“But, Dad, I don’t just have NEEDS; I WANT stuff too!”



“God gives me a lot of things
I want too.”

“I don’t see how it’s fun to give your stuff away.” Levi said.

“I didn’t at first either, Levi, but can I still get your help?”



Here was Dad's mission:

Find the best treasures in the WHOLE shop...

"YES!" Levi said.



...to give away.

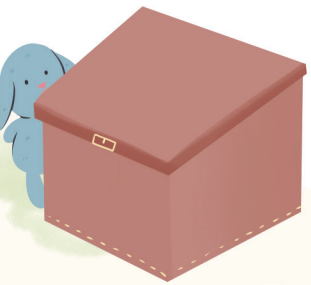
“HOOOOOOOO”

Levi cried.



Ouch. Do you think that was easy for Levi?

Levi did what Dad asked,
careful to ONLY pick things
he DIDN'T want for himself.



For example, that knight helmet over there, he wanted that
most of all to give to his deputy Jumpy.



They brought the gifts to a family in need.



Then Levi looked in
the window.



He couldn't believe
what he saw.

The kids treated those gifts like
they were priceless treasures.

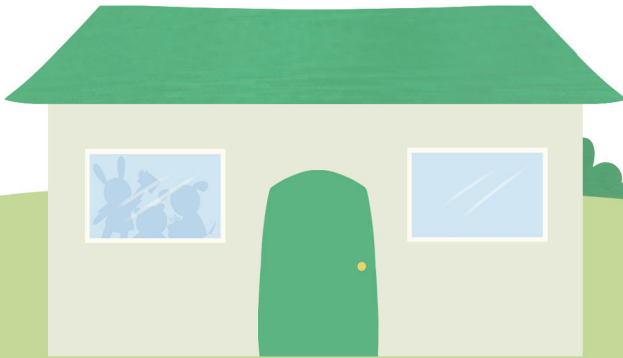




“Dad. . . why am I so happy? I could cry from happiness. . . and I didn’t get the gifts.”



Jumpy wanted to tell Levi the answer. . . but he couldn’t because he is a Dfrog.

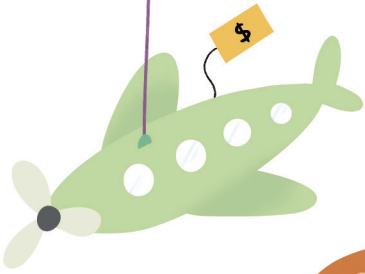


As time went on, Dad started trusting Levi more,
and started paying him for helping in the shop.

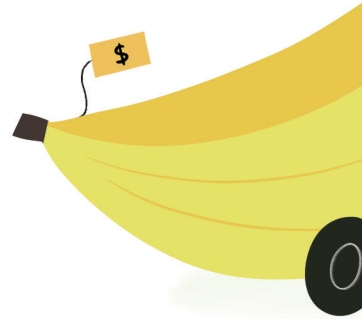
What do you think Levi did
with the money?



Were you thinking he would buy stuff for others?



Well...



No.

He bought more for himself.

More and more and more.

“I don’t understand, Jumpy.
I don’t feel as happy as the day we gave stuff to
those kids. I feel frustrated.”



That's when he remembered he
FINALLY had enough money to
buy what he wanted most.



Everything's about to
change Jumpy. We are
going to be happy now.



Just as Levi was about to get it, something bad happened!

His friend Lamantha came into the shop
looking at the very thing Levi was about to buy!





“Do I have enough money for this?”

“No! And it’s not for sale!”





Lamantha was very sad.
She explained that she wanted to
give it as a birthday gift for her little
brother who has a pet Dchicken.*



*A Dchicken is like a
Dfrog, but a chicken.

He loved his Dchicken. Oof. Levi felt a pain in his gut.

He thought about it.



And he remembered how he felt when his dad let him give gifts away last time.





Before he could think about it,
Levi RIPPED out his wallet!

He grabbed some money!



He grabbed the helmet!



He gave them to Lamantha.



“For your brother, and his Dchicken.”



Lamantha skipped out of the shop.
She was so happy.

And Levi finally got it.



“God gave my dad
this shop.”



“Dad gave us money.”



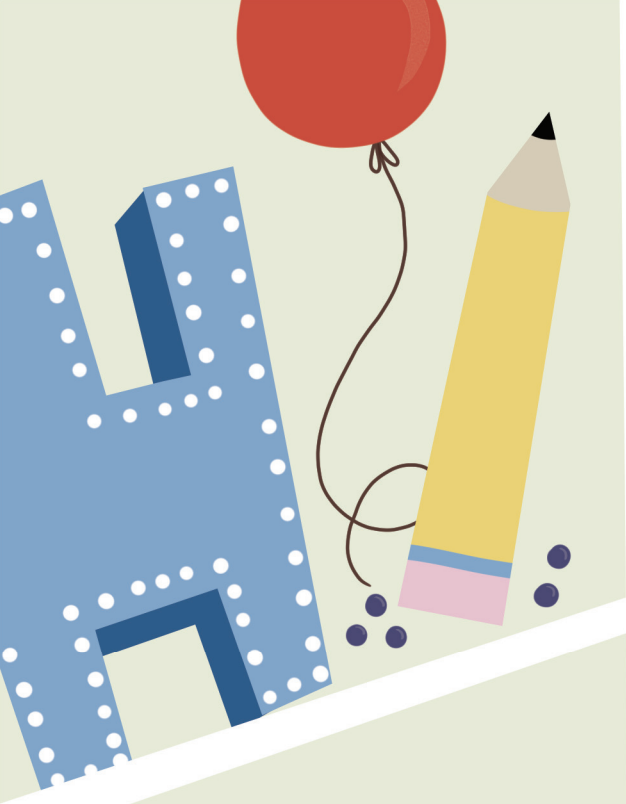
“We gave Lamantha the knight's helmet.”



“And she's going to give it to her brother.”



We get, so we can give.



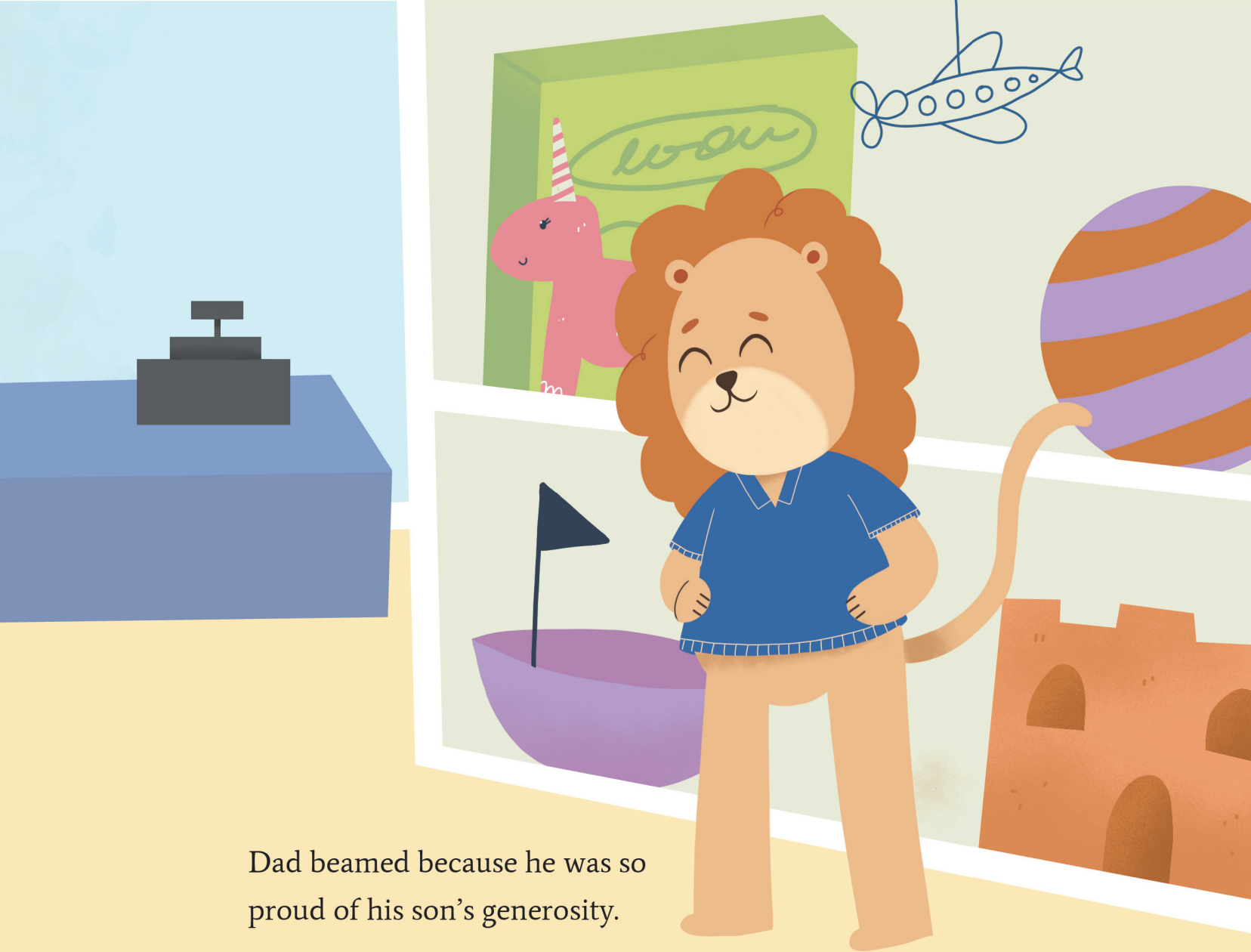
Levi didn't stop liking toys.

But he had a whole new understanding of the purpose of stuff.



“From now on, Jumpy, we are going to use our treasures and our money to bless other people like crazy!”





Dad beamed because he was so proud of his son's generosity.

The End.

Let's talk about the story!

What do you think Levi learned about stuff that most people still haven't learned?

- A. Stuff is not what makes us happy.
- B. Stuff is less important than people.
- C. Joy comes from blessing others.
- D. All of the above.

Did you know all this comes from something Jesus taught?

He said, "*Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth... but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven*" (Matthew 6:19-20).

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:21)

What do you think that means?

Do you think Levi figured that out?

- YES
- NO

What's an example of a treasure on earth?

- A. Racoons
- B. Snow Globes
- C. Joy



One final thought: *You won't know how joyful giving is until you try it. And before you try it, it seems crazy that that would make you happy.*



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"I CAN SEE IT NOW..."

said Levi the Lion, "God gave my dad the shop... and we get so we can give."

The idea that it is better to give than to receive was really hard for Levi at first.

It's something you usually have to learn through experience.

Levi's world changed the moment he tried it and realized that money. . . stuff. . . it doesn't fill us up. But blessing others does.

AUTHOR TIMMY BAUER?

Timmy Bauer is the author of Lucas the Dinosaur Entrepreneur, Billy the Dragon, Harper Hears No, and several other books that have reached Amazon bestseller status.

He founded Dinosaur House to help kids think creatively and passionately about their future. Its curriculum program, DinoPreneurs, teaches children how to think and act like entrepreneurs with character and purpose.

