



*Victor*

**LEARNS TO BE HONEST**



# Victor Learns to be Honest

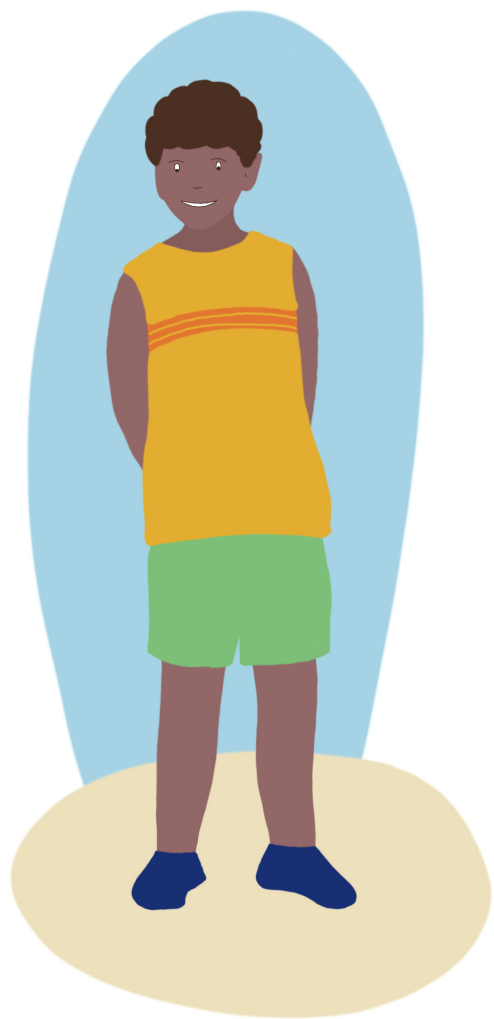
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This is Victor.

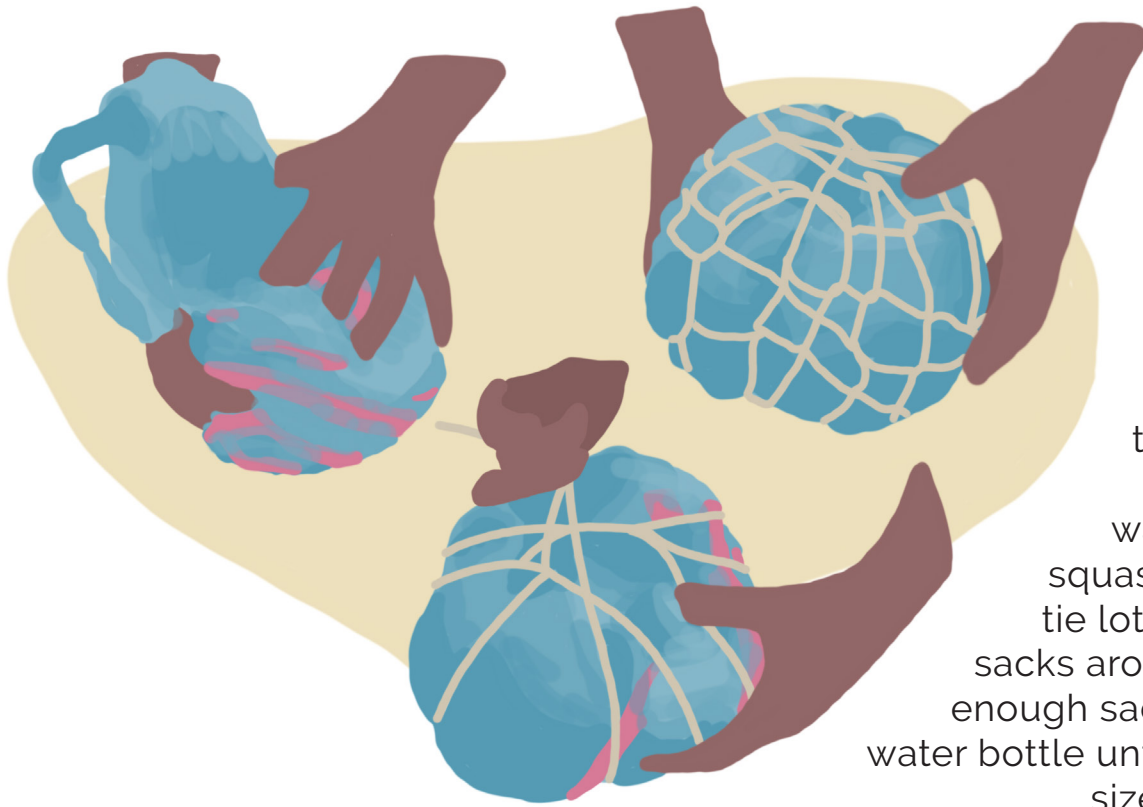


Victor lives in  
the village  
with his  
grandpa  
and his  
grandma  
and his  
cousin  
Martha.





Victor loves  
to play  
football with  
the other  
boys from the  
village. Bright  
and Great are  
Victor's good  
friends.



The boys do not have a real football. They make their own! They take an empty water bottle and squash it. Then they tie lots of old plastic sacks around it. They tie enough sacks around the water bottle until it is the right size for a football.



The boys have a free place to play in. They take their palms and pile them at each end of the free place in two piles to make the goals. They run back and forth kicking the ball.

Suddenly Great kicks the ball hard and it falls apart. The plastic sacks do not stay together in the shape of a ball very well. How nice it would be if they had a real football.





The next day,  
Victor and his  
grandpa go to  
town to get  
more plantain.  
Victor is very  
happy, he loves  
to ride on the  
bike with his  
grandpa.

When Victor and his grandpa get to town Victor's grandpa parks the bike beside some other bikes. He tells Victor he will be busy for about 30 minutes and Victor can look around. He gives Victor some big strong sacks to hold and tells him they will put the plantain in the sacks.





Victor walks slowly up the street towards the market.

Across the street there is a supermarket with all kinds of things out in front. There are mats for sleeping on, different kinds of bread, some thermoses and also a big net full of real footballs!





Victor crosses the street and stares at the footballs. They are black and white. How he would love to have one. Victor sees a sign that says 3,000 Naira. Never has Victor ever had that much money.



Victor reaches  
and out and  
touches one  
of the balls. It  
is smooth and  
hard. It would  
be so nice to  
have a ball that  
you can kick  
far. A football  
that will go  
in the air and  
through the  
goal and not  
fall apart.

Victor looks into the shop. He cannot see anyone. There are no other customers around. He reaches out and picks up a football. He drops it into one of the big sacks and he walks quickly up the street.





Victor goes quickly  
into the market.  
His heart is  
pounding but he  
does not hear  
anyone coming  
after him. He  
walks past the  
vegetables  
and the  
meat until  
he comes to  
where people are  
selling plantain. Up  
ahead he can see his  
grandpa.

Victor holds the sack with the ball behind his back. Then he comes close to his grandpa and asks him if he has the plantain yet. Grandpa has bought a big pile of it and Victor starts to put it all in the sacks.





When they get home Victor quickly takes the plantain out of the sacks and gives it to his grandma. Then he takes the soccer ball and runs out of the back of the house to the free place where the boys play.

Bright and Great are already there with some other boys. All the boys are very excited when they see the new football. "Victor, where did you get this?" they all ask. Victor does not want to tell the boys that he stole it. He does not want anyone to know what he did.







But Victor forgot that Someone did see him take the football without paying for it. In the Bible it says that God sees everything we do. In Genesis 16:13 it says, "You are a God who sees me." Now Victor must do another wrong thing, he tells the other boys a lie. He says, "My uncle came to visit today, and he brought it to me." Victor also forgot the verse in the Bible that says, "Do not lie to one another." Colossians 3:9.



"Let's play!" Victor shouts,  
and the boys begin to  
chase the football up  
and down the free  
place. The boys  
run and shout  
and laugh as they  
chase the ball.  
How wonderful  
it is to have a real  
football.





But Victor does not shout and laugh, Victor runs after the ball, but he does not kick it very much. Victor has a very bad feeling inside. He feels dark and heavy in his heart. He cannot laugh and be happy.

Soon the boys must go home. "Tell your uncle thank you," they call to Victor as they all walk towards their houses. Victor picks up the ball and goes to his house. He hides it in the weeds behind his house.



After supper it is time for Victor and Martha to go to bed. Martha falls asleep quickly on her mat, but Victor cannot sleep. He tosses and turns on his mat. He thinks about the

football. He thinks, "Why did I take the ball? It was wrong, I should not have

done that. What should I do now?

Maybe if I get rid of it, it will

not bother me so much."



Quietly Victor gets off his mat and goes to the back door of the house. The door squeaks very loudly when he pushes it open. Grandpa is still outside and he hears the door. He is in the shadows where Victor cannot see him. Victor goes to where he hid the ball and picks it up.





Grandpa comes and stands beside Victor.

“What do you have there, Victor?” he asks. Victor looks at the ball in his hands. He does not know what to say to Grandpa. He turns the ball over and over in his hands.



Finally, Victor looks up at Grandpa and tells him, "I got it when we were in the town today."

Grandpa asks, "Where did you get so much Naira to pay for a ball like that?" Now Victor must tell Grandpa that he did not pay for the ball.

Grandpa looks very, very sad. "Victor," he says, "Come and sit over here with me." Quietly Grandpa talks to Victor. He talks about how wrong it is to steal something. Victor has sinned against God and against the man in the shop. Big tears begin to fall down Victor's face. "I am very sorry, Grandpa, for what I did. I will pray and tell the Lord that I am sorry and ask Him to forgive me."





"You will also have to take the ball back to the shop, Victor," says Grandpa. "We will go back there tomorrow and return it." The next day Victor and his grandpa go back to the shop. Victor has the football in the sack.





He tells the man in the shop what he did. The man in the shop is very angry. He shouts at Victor and tells him to never come to his shop again. Victor tells the man he is very sorry, but the man does not want to listen to him.

When Victor and his grandpa get home Victor goes to the free space where the boys are waiting for him. The boys stand around Victor and ask, "Where is the ball? Did you bring the football?"



Now Victor must tell the boys the truth. Victor tells them that he had done a wrong thing, but he had made it right. He had returned the ball. The boys listen quietly. Great nods and pats Victor on the back when he hears that Victor returned the ball.



Suddenly Victor feels happy again. He can smile and laugh again like he did before he took the ball. He has a good idea. He says to all the boys, "Why don't we all collect sticks and sell firewood. Maybe if we all do this and save the Naira we can get enough Naira to buy a ball together for all of us to use." The boys smile and nod. This would be a good way to get a football for them to play with.





A verse to memorize:

YOU ARE A  
GOD WHO  
SEES ME.

GENESIS 16.13

ALSO  
AVAILABLE:



BRIGHT  
LEARNS TO  
BE KIND



GLORY  
LEARNS TO  
OBEY



BLESSING  
LEARNS TO  
BE SHARE



GREAT  
GETS A  
CLEAN  
HEART

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