**{Truth Doesn’t Get You in Trouble}**

This is a story about a boy named Caleb, who is six years old. He and his family live in a beautiful house in New York.

One day, Caleb was in the living room playing with his toy plane, his mother was in the kitchen and his father was at work. Caleb was playing happily with his toy plane when suddenly the sound of something breaking came! Caleb broke his mother favorite flower vase, since his mother was in the kitchen cooking dinner, she couldn’t her anything so Caleb tried to hide the broken pieces of vase under the sofa. While he was pushing the last tiny pieces under the sofa, He heard the door open! It was his father, Caleb got worried so he pretended like nothing happened. When Caleb’s father saw the tiny pieces of the flower vase, his father asked him in a very soft and gentle voice, ‘What happen Caleb?’ Caleb was afraid he might get scolded by his parents so he lied and said, ‘Nothing happened, nothing at all!’ Caleb’s father knew that he was lying but didn’t scold him. Instead he carried Caleb and made him sit on the sofa then said, ‘Caleb telling the truth is like building a bridge with your friends, if you lie the bridge will break and your friends won’t trust you anymore. In fact they wouldn’t want to be friends with you at all. ‘Would you want that to happen?’ Caleb paused for a second, unable to make eye contact with his father. Then he answered, ‘No, I wouldn’t want that to happen!’ His father gave him a smile and said, ‘The same goes with Mama and Papa. If you lie to us we wouldn’t be able to trust or help you.’

Now, Caleb felt sad and guilty and said, ‘I broke the vase while I was playing with my toy plane.’ His father then said, ‘I am sure it was an accident and hope you didn’t get hurt!’ Caleb realized that his father wasn’t angry with him, he was gentle and kind. He was also understanding. While Caleb was realizing his mistakes, his father said, ‘It’s okay Caleb, let’s clean up the mess and apologize to your mother.’ Caleb agreed and started cleaning.

In the end, Caleb apologized to his mother and his mother didn’t scold him either because it takes a lot of courage to tell the truth, his parents knew that. By this, we learn that we should speak the truth at all times and that “Honesty is the best policy.”

By: **Bal Jerusha**