Chapter 1

Not So Much Fun After All

Jack lived with Grandfather in a pretty white house. Grandfather had a big brown horse named Bill.

One day Jim went to the farm to see Grandfather and Jack. It was always so much fun to have a good visit at the farm.

The boys liked to ride big brown Bill. If Jack went very fast, then Jim went faster. Oh, what fun it was to ride and ride and go b-b-b-bump!

Grandfather had a fine fence. He told the boys many times not to play on the fence. He wanted the fence to last for a long time.

One day Jim thought, "Oh, it could be so much fun up on that fence. You could see so far!"

He seemed to forget what Grandfather had said. Grandfather was away working and Grandmother was busy in the house.

Jack called to Jim and asked him to play "Do What I Do" with him. It was fun to run here and there. They galloped this way and that way.

They tried to do many, many things. They jumped over Grandmother's flowers, they ran to the trees, and, last of all, they ran to the fence.

"Come on," called Jim. "We will go over the fence and get big brown Bill. I want a good, fast ride. Come on, Jack, do not be afraid."

Jack said, "I am not afraid, but Grandfather does not want us to play on the fence. He wants a fine fence for a long time. I will do what he said."

Jim answered, "He will never know. We will soon have Bill back in the field. Come on!"

Up on the fence jumped Jim. He called, "Come on, Jack. You have to do what I do in this game."

"No," said Jack. "Grandfather told us not to play on the fence and I'm not going to do it."

Just then Neighbor Brown came out into her yard and saw Jim on the fence. "I must get down at once," cried Jim. "Mrs. Brown will tell Grandmother."

Jim wanted to get down fast and not fall. But down he fell to the ground!

IT DID HAPPEN

How he cried and cried! Grandmother and Mrs. Brown came fast to help Jim when they saw he was hurt.

Grandmother ran to call the doctor. Mrs. Brown cleaned Jim up as best she could. Jack helped, too.

When the doctor came, he put Jim into his car. Grandmother went along with them to help the boy.

"Oh, Grandmother, I am sorry that I didn't stay off the fence. Please pray that my hand will not hurt so much," cried Jim.

Grandmother prayed for Jim after he had told Jesus he was sorry that he had climbed on the fence.

Jesus helped Jim's hand. He helped the doctor, too.

When Grandfather came home, Jack told him what had happened. Grandfather asked Jesus to help Jim, too.

The telephone rang. Grandmother wanted them to come and get her and Jim.

Soon Grandfather and Jack were in the car going after Grandmother and Jim.

On the way home, Jim told Grandfather that he was sorry. He knew he had not done what Grandfather had told him to do.

"Now I know Jack was right when he would not climb the fence," said Jim.

He thought, "Why didn't I take time to ask Jesus to help me stay off the fence? Next time I will do better."

And he did.