

Danna and the Math Test

By Lucy Stevenson Ewell
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(Based on a true story)

“Pray always, that you may come off conqueror” (Doctrine and Covenants 10:5).

“Danna,” Mamá called. “Ready for school? It’s scripture time!”

“Coming!” Danna slid her math book into her brightly colored school bag and slung it over her shoulder.

Danna and her family memorized a new scripture verse every week. Each day before they left for school, they practiced saying it together. Mamá said that learning a new scripture is like making a new friend. Once it’s in your heart, it’s there whenever you need it.

Danna and her younger sisters stood by the door and repeated this week’s verse. It was from the Doctrine and Covenants.

“Pray always, that you may come off conqueror,” they said together.

“What does ‘come off conqueror’ mean?” Danna’s sister Tatianna asked.

“It means that you can do hard things!” Danna said.



Mamá nodded. “When we pray, Heavenly Father will help us.”

Danna repeated the scripture over and over in her mind as she hurried off to school.

Later that day, Danna’s teacher stood at the front of the classroom next to the blue and white Guatemalan

flag. “Time for your math test,” Señora Morales said. She started passing out a stack of papers.

Danna liked math. And she was good at it! She had studied hard for the test, and she knew she could do well on it.

Danna grabbed her pencil and started working. She was feeling good about her answers. Then she got to the last set of problems. They were really hard. She couldn’t remember how to do them!

Danna felt a wave of panic. How could she finish her math test? She gripped her pencil and read the next problem again.

Then a thought popped into her mind. *“Pray always,*

that you may come off conqueror. . . .”

Danna took a deep breath. She closed her eyes and said a quiet prayer in her heart. *Heavenly Father, please help me remember what I’ve learned. Please help me to do a good job on this test.*

Danna looked back at her paper. She looked at the problems she had already solved. Then she looked at the hard ones again. She started remembering how to do them! Her nervousness melted away. She took another deep breath and went to work.

After school, Danna was excited to tell her family about what happened.

“At first I couldn’t remember how to solve some of the problems,” Danna said. “But then I thought about the scripture we’re memorizing. I said a prayer, and Heavenly Father helped me.”

“Way to go!” Mamá said.

“You came off conqueror!” Tatianna said.

Danna laughed. “I did! No matter what score I get, I know I did my best.” She gave Mom and Tatianna a big hug. She couldn’t wait to see what scripture friend they would make next week! ●



ILLUSTRATIONS BY KAREN JONES

This story happened in Guatemala.



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