

Removing a Splinter

One afternoon, while playing on a wooden picnic table, 4-year-old Harold ran a splinter into his finger. Sobbing, he called his father at the office. The father tried to soothe his emotions, but Harold insisted: "I want God to take the splinter out."

The father, seeking to reassure the child, advised Harold that his mother could remove the splinter very easily. Harold would have none of that. He wanted God to do it because, he said, when Mom takes a splinter out, it hurts. Harold desired for God to remove it "by himself."

When the father got home an hour later, the splinter was still there, so he proceeded to remove it. In the process, he tried to teach Harold that often God uses others to do His work. And sometimes it is painful.

All of us have experienced the reality of that truth. There have been times when we have "stubbed our toes," spiritually speaking, and the discipline of God, because He loves us, has been difficult to bear. But we become the better for it.

And in our professional calling, we have come to understand that God uses us to affect in positive ways the lives of the people we serve.

--Beecher Hunter