

# Someone Has Your Back

Author Jack Canfield, originator of the *Chicken Soup for the Soul* series, said it: “Human beings are not designed to go through life alone. No one has to bear the burden of tough times all by themselves.”

A television nature program captured the image of this idea very well. It was an episode about a baby bear. The cub was one of two babies born to a mother black bear, but his sibling died in childbirth. Not too long afterward, Mama Bear also died. The little cub was left alone to fend in the world.

But he was fortunate. He soon came across a huge male black bear who took a liking to the little guy. By the end of the day, the adoption papers were signed, and the little cub had a new friend and father.

Papa Bear showed the cub how to forage for berries. He taught him which plants he could eat and which to leave alone. He showed him how to fish. Papa Bear taught the cub all the things a bear needs to know to get around in the world.



The two were inseparable ... until the day they separated. The little cub found himself all alone when a hungry mountain lion crept up. The two locked eyes, and terror ran through the bear’s heart. So, he did the only thing he knew to do, the thing Papa Bear had taught. He rose on his hind legs, showed teeth and claws, looked his enemy right in the eye and roared a fierce roar. Well, it wasn’t really a roar at all, but a tiny squeak.

The camera panned back to the mountain lion who must have been amused at the little guy and was surely preparing to enjoy a tasty lunch. The audience expected the lion to pounce any second. But something strange happened. A look of fear crossed the cougar’s face. He slowly backed off a few steps, and then turned and bounded away.

The camera panned back to the frightened cub, and now the audience could see what the little bear could not. Behind the cub, but not too far back, stood Papa Bear – up on his hind legs, all teeth and claws, with a deadly gleam in his eye. He didn’t growl, but then he didn’t have to. The lion got the message.

(more)



I love the image of the powerful black bear, ready to go to battle for a vulnerable cub. And it's an image for us to keep in mind. No matter how helpless, frightened or vulnerable we may feel, there is a strong and mighty force just behind us. That force is made up of people who watch out for us – family and friends, children and colleagues, and even strangers. There are more people behind you and me, ready to step in when needed, than we may ever know.

And behind all of them is our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He has our backs. He can pull us through.

*Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous hand (Isaiah 41:10 ESV).*

– Beecher Hunter