

# Simon's Shoes

Key Word: **Eternal**

Key Verse: Jesus answered them, "Do not complain among yourselves." *John 6:43*

For his birthday, Simon's uncle George gave him a pair of shoes. Simon had been wanting cleats. He was sure uncle George would get them. Even if it wasn't cleats, Simon expected cross trainers. He lifted the lid and looked inside. His face fell. His mother was saying, "Come on, Simon, try them on. See how they fit." Since his uncle was standing there grinning, Simon had to try them on. They fit perfectly. Simon wondered what excuse he could find for refusing to wear them.

"I thought you wanted shoes," his mother said, after his uncle had gone home. "Yes, but not these! They look like dancing shoes," cried Simon. His mother replied, "They're all the rage in New York, that's why he bought them." Simon put the shoes away. When he went to summer camp and began to unpack, he saw his mother had packed the thin, rubber-soled shoes. Simon tried to hide them, but the other boys were laughing. Simon was so embarrassed.

Later, the camp leader took them all on a hike. While going through a marshy field Simon fell into the water. He was soaked. When they got back to camp, the leader ordered Simon to change his clothes and shoes. Simon

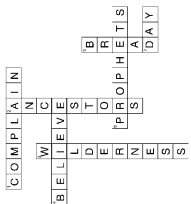
had to wear uncle George's shoes. The shoes were really comfortable. They fit so well, Simon almost forgot he was wearing them. The next day they were hiking up a mountain and it was easy at first, but it became more difficult. As they got near the top, loose pebbles made it really tricky. Everyone was sliding, unable to get a grip on the rocky surface. Everyone except Simon.

Simon discovered that his new shoes really gripped the surface. They were so light, he was as nimble as a mountain goat. When one of his friends slipped down the mountain-side, Simon didn't hesitate. "I'll go!" he shouted. His friend had twisted an ankle in the fall. Simon was able to bring him safely to the top of the mountain. "You're a hero, Simon," said the leader. But Simon was thinking of his uncle George. He would write and tell him what a fantastic present the shoes had been.

## Questions

Why didn't Simon like his new shoes?

Jesus said, "Do not complain among yourselves." What do you think he meant by that?



## PICTURE DIFFERENCES

1. HAND
2. EYES
3. LEAVES MISSING
4. STAFF
5. BELT
6. MOUTH
7. MOUSTACHE/BEARD
8. SCARF
9. LEAVES ADDED
10. CLOAK STRIPE

## CROSSWORD

## LETTER TILES

VERY TRULY, I TELL YOU,  
WHOEVER BELIEVES HAS  
ETERNAL LIFE.  
(John 6:47)



# Gospel Grams

Today's Gospel Story  
is from  
**John 6:35, 41-51**

