

SOGL K Website
Faith-Filled People

Chapter 2
A Read-To-Me Story

St. Francis of Assisi
Feast Day: October 4

When Francis was a young man he lived a wild life. He spent money foolishly. He bought expensive clothes. He went to parties all the time. He did not go to school or learn about his father's business. People said that he was wasting his life.

Francis and his friend went off to fight in a war. They thought that being soldiers would be a wonderful adventure. But Francis was captured. He became a prisoner. While he was locked away, Francis prayed. God told him to change the way he was living.

Francis went back home when the captured soldiers were set free. He was weak and very sick. He had to stay in bed resting. One night he had a dream that God spoke to him. God said, "Follow the Master." Francis believed that God was telling him to follow Jesus.

As soon as he was well, Francis gave up his wild life. He gave his fancy clothes to the poor. He wore only a plain robe with a belt made of rope. He made other changes, too. He moved away from home and lived in the beauty of God's creation. On warm nights he slept in the fields. When it rained, he slept in a cave.

He ate simple foods that people gave him. He became such a gentle man that people say he tamed the wild beasts in the forest! Everywhere he went, he told people to stop sinning and to live as friends of Jesus. He begged the rich people he met to give him money to help the poor and sick.

Francis' father was very upset! He did not understand that serving Jesus brought Francis joy. For the first time in his life, Francis understood what true happiness was.

Other men came to join Francis in living a holy and simple life. They became known as Franciscans. Today, there are Franciscan priests, brothers and sisters all over the world.

Francis reminds us to love and praise God for the gift of his creation, especially people. We can care for the Earth and the animals God created. We can remember that we are all God's children. Like Saint Francis we can pray, "Praise be to the Lord! Praise be!"