

# The Story of Pedro

Pedro lived in a poor village in Mexico. One day a missionary came



to his village. The missionary needed a way to get around on the dirt roads, so he came to Pedro's father to rent a donkey. Donkeys can be very stubborn, so Pedro said he would help by going with the missionary. He could make the donkey go.

Pedro went with the missionary from place to place. He heard him talk to the people about

being honest. He said Jesus wants us to tell the truth. Telling the truth was hard for Pedro. Often Pedro did not obey



his father. To keep from getting into trouble, Pedro would lie.

There were times when Pedro was with his friends that he liked to talk like he was important. Sometimes he told lies and stories to his friends so they would think well of him.

The missionary knew that Pedro lied. It made it hard to trust Pedro because he never knew what was true and what was not.

One day the missionary talked with Pedro about telling lies. He said, "Pedro, I want you to take this hammer and nails. Every time you tell a lie, I want you to hammer in a nail into this wooden post. The missionary showed him how to do it.



Pedro thought that was the strangest idea. These missionaries were crazy people. Oh, well, it would be fun to use a hammer and show it off to his friends, so he said he would do it.

"That's right," said the missionary, "And you can not take away the marks your lies leave in some's mind. Your lie leaves a mark on them, and you can never take it away. You may say you are sorry, but the mark is still there in their mind. It will be hard for them to trust you again." "Pedro, you need to ask God to forgive you and to help you tell the truth." Pedro understood. He decided he would be truthful.



The missionary came to see Pedro's post. It was full of nails. "Pedro, I'm glad to see that you have been honest about telling most of your lies." "Now, I want you to pull out all of the nails." Pedro thought this was strange, but he pulled out all of the nails.

Pedro walked down the road with the hammer and nails. His friend, Pablo, met him. "Wow! Where did you get that hammer?" Pedro said, "The missionary gave it to me because I have helped him with the donkey."

Pedro knew that was not true, but he did not want to tell Pablo the truth. Pedro knew he would have to put in a nail for that lie.

Pablo said, "Did he give you anything else?" Pablo knew that all Americans are rich.

Pedro said, "He gave me a pair of shoes and and new shirt." Pablo said, "Wow! Can I see them?" Pedro said, "Oh, I have them in the bank. You know all Americans keep valuable things in the bank."

Pedro knew he would have to put in more nails for all those lies, but he wanted to show off to Pablo. He liked feeling important.



Later, Pedro went to the post and began hammering in nails. After a week, he had a lot of nails in the post.