

Keeping Rufus Safe

By Sherry Johnston
(Based on a true story)

Estelle ate her last bite of Mama's yummy enchiladas and scooted her chair away from the patio table. It was a warm summer night—perfect for eating outside. And perfect for playing! She couldn't wait to play fetch with her dog, Rufus.

But first she had to clear the table. She piled the plates into a tall stack. She knew the stack was getting too wobbly. But she didn't want to make a lot of trips inside.

Estelle balanced the stack in one hand and carefully opened the door with the other. But the stack started to tip. *Crash!* Two plates smashed onto the patio, right in front of the door. Dad ran out to see what happened and went to get a broom. Then Estelle saw Rufus. He was trotting toward the door.

"Rufus! Don't step on the broken plates!"



she thought.

Rufus ran to Estelle and dropped the ball at her feet. She scratched his ears. Then she threw the ball and laughed as Rufus ran after it.

Rufus was safe. And he was happy! Estelle wanted to keep following Heavenly Father's commandments to stay happy and safe too. ●

This story took place in the USA.

She ran around the table and jumped in front of him. "No! Rufus, stay!"

But Rufus didn't stop. He tried to get around her. Estelle bent down and put her hands in front of him.

"Rufus, I'm trying to keep you safe," she said. "The pieces are sharp. They'll cut your paws."

Then Estelle had an idea. "Where's your ball? Do you want to play fetch?" Rufus turned away to look for his ball. Now he was safe!

As she swept up the broken plates with Dad, Estelle thought about why she told Rufus no. If he stepped on the pieces, he would have been hurt. He wouldn't be

able to do what he liked to do—like playing fetch.

Dad always said that Heavenly Father gives commandments to keep us happy and safe. But Estelle sometimes thought that commandments felt more like rules to keep her from doing what she wanted.

Estelle looked down at the broken pieces. *Maybe Heavenly Father says no to some things because He's trying to keep me safe too,*



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