

### (3) How Santa Remembered

Bertie was a very good boy. He was kind, honest, and caring. However, he had one bad habit, he always forgot.

No matter how important the errand was, when he didn't finish, his answer was always, "I forgot." When Bertie was asked to send a note to his teacher, his mother would find the note still in his pocket at night. If he was asked to go to the store to get something, he would return late and without the thing in his hands. "I forgot" he would say.

His father and mother were not happy about Bertie's bad habit and decided that something must be done.

Christmas was near, and Bertie was busy making a list of things which he would like to ask Santa.

"Look at this long list. Santa Claus may not remember them all. He may forget!" said his mother.

"He wouldn't," replied Bertie, "I will write all the things I want on this paper. When Santa Claus looks into my Christmas stocking, he will find this list I wrote. He can read the list and at the same time, put the things I wished for in the stocking."

"That is a clever way to remember things, a list!" said the mother."

"Yes, I wrote them down on a list so he doesn't forget." said Bertie proudly.

It was Christmas morning. Bertie was up at dawn eagerly to see what was in his stocking. Mom heard the noises of flipping and going through boxes. Then, she heard Bertie coming up the stairs with slow steps, and moving toward her room. Slowly he opened the door and came in front of her.

"Good morning, Bertie. What did you get from Santa?" Mom asked. Bertie held a piece of paper in his hand, said: "I FORGOT."

Tears fell from his eyes, "See what Santa Claus left for me! How can he forget? It is important! And I have written it down. He could have at least given me one thing!"

Dad came in and looked at the paper. He smiled and said, “Santa is just like you, always forget.” Bertie burst into tears and said, “But I wrote it down.”

Mom held Bertie gently in her arms and said: “We are going to Grandpa’s house, and there’s another Christmas tree. Let’s do it one more time, writing the list down for Santa to remember. Who knows, maybe this time it would work.”

Bertie carefully wrote down the list again, and said to Santa in his heart, “Please do not forget; this is important. I have written it down for you to help you remember.”

Under Grandpa’s Christmas tree, Bertie found the gifts he had written on his list to Santa with a note attached, saying “Thanks for the list, it really helps me remember the things I need to do.”

From that day on, whenever mom asked Bertie to run some errands, she would say, “Remember, writing it down on a list, that’s how Santa remembered!”