

## LESSON 24

## RAVI LEARNS NOT TO STEAL

- ROHIT:** I am so happy that Deepak asked us over to his house to play. I had a really a good time. How about you?
- RAVI:** You would think he owned a toys store. He must be very rich.
- ROHIT:** He has everything you can imagine. Toys, toys, and more toys! He has an Indian army fort; all the toy animals and even a huge backyard swing set.
- RAVI:** I saw an ice cream machine in his closet and he had three bicycles and two tricycles.
- ROHIT:** I liked his toy army set. They look like real army men.
- RAVI:** All I have is one army man.
- ROHIT:** Do you really?
- RAVI:** Let me show you. (He takes out his toy army man.)
- ROHIT:** That looks like Deepak's toy army man. Those toys cost about \$20.00 each. Did your grandpa get it for you?
- RAVI:** Well, not exactly.
- ROHIT:** I'll bet it was your mother. When did you get it? For your birthday! I have never seen it before.
- RAVI:** No, I have had it for a little while. I didn't get it for my birthday.
- ROHIT:** Did you take it to Deepak's house?
- RAVI:** I will tell you something if you promise not to tell anyone. This toy was Deepak's but now it belongs to me.
- ROHIT:** Did Deepak let you have it?
- RAVI:** No, he did not give it to me. I found it outside in the yard.
- ROHIT:** Where?
- RAVI:** Well to tell the truth I found it in his toy box.
- ROHIT:** Ravi, did you take the toy army man from Deepak's collection? If you did, it is called stealing.

**RAVI:** No way, I do not call it stealing. Have you heard of "Finders keepers, losers' weepers?"

**ROHIT:** I am ashamed to be your friend.

**RAVI:** When I played in his room I counted his toys. Would you believe he has eleven of army men? I do not have even one but now I do.

**ROHIT:** Do you remember what our Jain school teacher said about stealing?

**RAVI:** Huh? "That we should not steal, and we should not take anyone else's things without permission. We should not keep things that we find because they do not belong to us."

**ROHIT:** That's right.

**RAVI:** But whenever you take something it is like borrowing it and that is not stealing. That teaching was for old-fashioned people and not for modern kids like us.

**ROHIT:** Boy! Are not you mixed up! We are Jains and Jains do not steal no matter what. Stealing is wrong and we get bad karmas (pap) by doing that.

**RAVI:** Is that right? It is not fair for Deepak to have all those toys and for me not to have any.

**ROHIT:** Once when I was complaining my papa explained, "Life is not always fair. It all depends what we might have done in past."

We all have to learn to accept this and if we keep collecting bad karmas then all it will do, is bring us more suffering. So, why not put an end to it by doing the right thing.

**RAVI:** Rohit, can I get rid of bad karmas?

**ROHIT:** Yes, you can. First you need to take the toy back to Deepak and ask him for the forgiveness from the bottom of your heart.

**RAVI:** I am really sorry. Deepak will be mad at me. I am scared to take the toy back.

**ROHIT:** If it will make you feel better I will go with you. Come on. Let us go!

**RAVI:** Hurry up and let us get this over with. I have really learned a lesson from this. I will never take away things that belong to other people.