

“The Faith of a Child”

By Jason Vanderlaan

I have two beautiful nieces, Jayden and Analise (four and three years old, respectively). Earlier this semester, I had a chance to go visit them. One day while I was there, Jayden asked me to play dominoes with her. But she didn't have just any domino set; she had Dora the Explorer Dominoes! Oh yeah, this was good stuff. Anyway, I'm sure there was some list of rules regarding the proper way to play with Dora the Explorer Dominoes, but Jayden and I threw that all to the wind and set out to chart our own course. We decided to build a tower!



Things went pretty well at first. We had a strong foundation and were continuing to add more blocks to it. Higher and higher we went. I was beginning to feel quite good about our accomplishment. But then it happened. Out of the corner of my eye I saw our doom: with the biggest smile on her face and a mischievous twinkle in her eyes, Analise came charging toward us. The earth rumbled with each mighty footstep. Everything moved in slow motion as she bent down and, with one magnificently devastating swoop of her hand, smashed our tower to pieces. Dora the Explorer Domino shrapnel flew all over the room. I was crushed.

But not Jayden. In her big-sister voice, full of pity and only a hint of sadness, she said, “Oh Analise...” Then she turned to me and said, “Well, I guess we better start again.” And so we did. We rebuilt the tower. And Analise came by and knocked it over again. Time and time again this happened. And each time, Jayden's response was the same: “Well, we better start again.”

I was amazed at her persistence and patience. In my cynical mindset, I was ready to give up after the first or second failure. But as I continued to rebuild again and again, inspired by my little niece, I heard a silent voice whisper into my heart: “This is the faith of a child.” It was simultaneously a rebuke and an encouragement.

I'd been struggling with this issue of faith in my own life – trying to find the courage to pick up pieces of broken dreams and try again. The devil had been relentless in sabotaging my attempts to rebuild. I wanted to give up, but here was God giving me a message through Jayden and Dora the Explorer Dominoes: keep trying, keep rebuilding!

I'm sure you've felt the same. What tower have you been trying to rebuild? Your purity? Your relationship with God? With a friend? Or perhaps you're simply trying to rebuild your trust and hope in God's ability to fulfill His promises of an abundant life for you. But somehow your towers keep crumbling.

Now, Analise was just playing like any child, but I can guarantee you the devil is not playing around. He means business, and he is doing everything he can to take you and your tower out. Why? Because he knows that if you rebuild that tower in your life, he'd be in trouble. That's why he keeps coming after you.

But when the devil knocks your tower down, listen to the words of Jesus: “Well, we better start again.” Let His hope and His courage inspire you to pick up the pieces and start again. Let Christ lead you and the tower will be rebuilt. That is the faith of a child.