

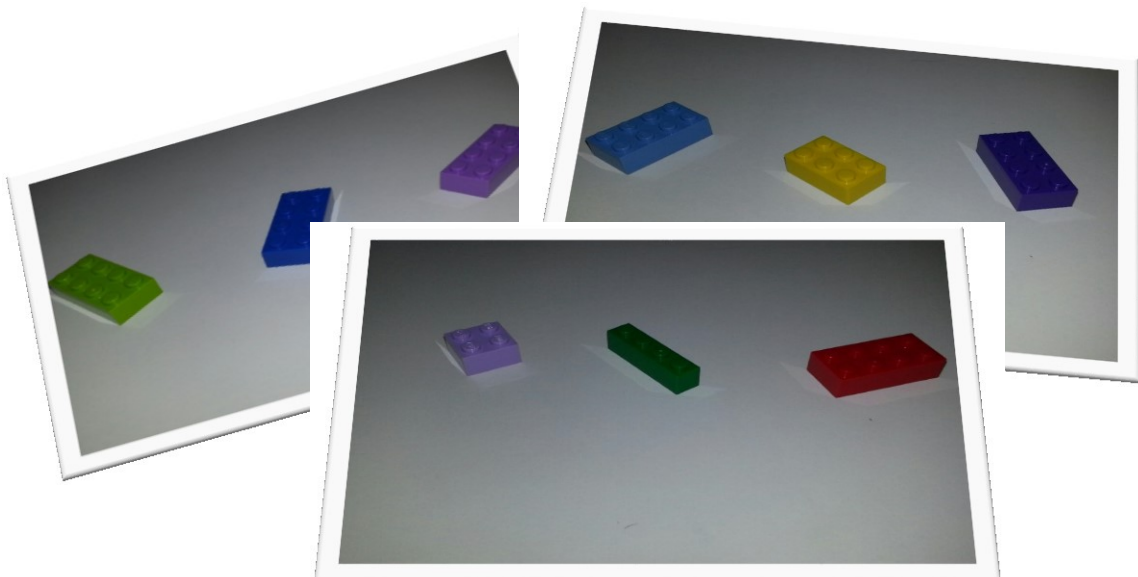


# Brick by Brick

A Lego Magazine to help build your relationship with God

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Legos  
Everywhere  
Gone is all  
Order

Try to keep it clean  
Always  
Becomes messy again  
Legos  
Everywhere still

# Stepping Foot on sharpness

“Ouch!”

I lifted my foot to reveal a small white Lego brick in the carpet of the family room. Sixteenth time today. I picked it up, walked over to the Lego table, and dropped it into the almost full jar that sat on top. This jar had become known to me as the “time out jar”, where Legos had to go if they escaped from their containers and were stepped on. It was quality punishment, and hopefully would make them learn their lesson.

I took one step, and then jumped when I felt the sting of a Lego under my foot. Well, I quickly regretted jumping. You see, what comes up must come down, I just happened to “come down” on my Lego model of the Empire State Building. After landing on what was now a mountain of Legos, I fell down in surprise...And accidentally sat on some Legos. I leapt up, gathered a handful of Legos, and pitched them into the time out jar. After many more handfuls, I finally had the whole mess cleaned up and in the time-out jar. It took a long time (what felt like hours) to finally reach the stairs with all my trips back and forth to the time out jar.

My free time the whole next week was spent stepping on Legos. With every Lego I stepped on was another trip to the time out jar, and I eventually had to get another time out jar, and another, and another... My stack of jars was definitely growing. Before long I wondered if astronauts from the National Space Station were looking up at it. I was running out of Legos to build with, but even worse, my feet were experiencing severe scratches. I had to solve this problem of stepping on Legos. I would much rather build Legos in my free time than step on them.

I decided to put lids on my Lego containers. Maybe this would stop Legos from escaping because they couldn't get out from the top...But they still got out when I opened the lids up so I could build. Or at least that's how I assumed they got out. When that didn't work, I tried laying a walkway made out of cardboard boxes down to get from the Lego table to the stairs, but the Legos only found their way onto the walkway. I even tried covering the whole Lego table in plastic wrap so the Legos couldn't escape the drawers, but that just made it cumbersome for me when I wanted to build with them.

It was hopeless. I had done all I could, but it just wasn't enough. Nothing had worked. I decided I would just have to suffer scrapes on my feet for the rest of my life, not to mention the money I'd spend on time out jars.

A few weeks later, I decided to get rid of the time out jars, and it took three days to finally have them all emptied. After a those long days of sorting my Legos into the correct containers, I was sitting on the couch reading in a Lego book. Someone being interviewed in the book said to always wear shoes. Good idea.

There once was a Lego named Blue  
Sitting with nothing to do.  
Someone stepped on his toe  
With a big yelping show.  
Blue said, “why not just wear a shoe?”

**Lego Tower**  
My hand  
Is shaking as  
It reaches out to put  
The final Lego on, then it  
Crumbles.

*Dear Martha*

---

**Dear Martha,**

*My Legos have gotten overwhelming, and I've decided to organize them. There are so many ways to sort Legos though. Which way is best?*

*Sincerely,  
Maggie Miller*

**Dear Miss Miller,**

That's a great question, one many Lego fans consider. Sorting by color gives your collection a pretty, finished look, however it can be hard finding the right shape.

Sorting by type is helpful because it's easier to distinguish between colors over shape. It'd be quicker to find a red slope in a container of slopes than a red slope in a container of red Legos. Sorting by element is sorting by type and color, which works well for large collections, but it does use more containers.

So really, it all depends on what you like to build and how many Legos you have. I suggest picking a method, trying it, and if it doesn't work, try another. It all depends on what works for you and your Legos.

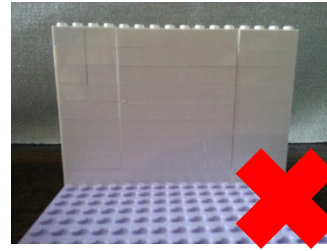
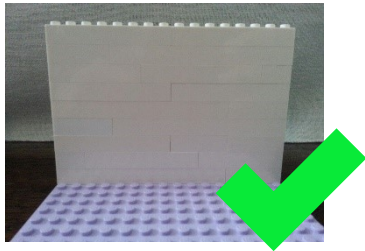
*Sincerely,  
Martha*



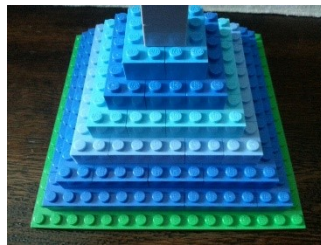
## Making Sturdier Lego Creations

Have you ever wished you could stop your huge Lego skyscraper from falling? Or do you wish to remove your second-floor from your two-story house frequently? Or perhaps you just want to make your two-year-old brother (aka Tornado), stop destroying your Lego town. I have some tips that can help.

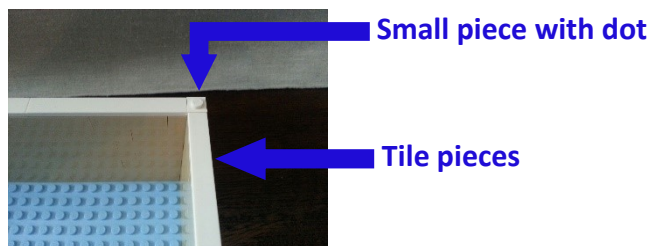
When building walls, layer pieces like bricks. This makes the walls sturdier and harder to break.



Give tall structures a wide base, building thinner as you go up. This makes creations sturdier because your base is gradually narrowing.



When attaching the second-story of a house, lay tile pieces on the walls of your first-story. Attach a small piece with a dot in each corner. If your second-story base plate can attach from the bottom and is the same size as the first-floor, it should attach only at the corners, removing easily if you want inside your first-story.



I hope these tricks work! And if you really need advice about your tornado brother, try keeping your creations out of reach. 😊

## Another Plan

13-year-old Hailey Stevenson perched on the edge of her chair, waiting for Matthew, the head counselor at Moose Lake Lego Camp, to say when to start the Lego challenge of the day: to build a creation having to do with summer using only primary colors and white.

"Are we allowed to use clear pieces?" Derrick asked Matthew.

"No clear pieces. Literally only yellow, blue, red, and white."

Helen raised her hand. "What about light blue?"

"You can use any shade of those three colors. You will have 30 minutes starting....NOW!"

Hailey decided on a 3-D beach ball. She started with a white circle Lego and built up, making each layer wider than the layer under it. She reached the middle, then started making her layers smaller. Hailey rummaged through the container of white circles, trying to find the same size she'd used for the circle on top. The only pieces left were too small. Hailey glanced at the timer. 30 seconds left. After a little more digging, she realized there were no more white circles like what she needed. They must've all been used.

"10 seconds!" Matthew called.

Hailey grabbed a smaller circle. It would have to do.

"Time's up!"

As Hailey stood, a girl named Vanessa walked over.

"Your beach ball looks awful! Why didn't you use the same circle for the bottom as you did for the top?"

Hailey didn't know what to say. Luckily she didn't have to, because Matthew started making an announcement, "Our annual Lego Contest is starting! Build something having to do with nature. The winner receives \$50! Entries are due by 8:00pm on Thursday. We'll announce the winner Friday. You can work with a partner and split the money if you prefer." *I'll win the contest and prove to Vanessa that I'm good at Legos!* Hailey decided. She'd build the best Lego scene ever, and already had an idea of what that might be.

The next day, as Hailey walked over to the lunch line, some campers were chatting about what they were going to build for the contest.

"What are you going to build Hailey?" Rose asked.

"I'd rather not say." Hailey replied as she spooned some gravy onto her biscuit. She didn't want other kids to steal her idea.

"She's too scared to even enter the contest after failing the challenge yesterday," Vanessa announced from a few spots ahead in the line, "That's why she's not saying, she's too ashamed to admit she's not doing it."

"I am not!" Hailey was furious.

"Did you guys see the beach ball she made? She used two different sized circles. It looked horrible!" Vanessa laughed.

"There were no circles the right size left. They were all taken!" Hailey cried.

"Well, you could've at least made them both the smaller size." Vanessa smirked as she strode off, full tray in hand.

Hailey blinked back tears as she finished making her tray. Why was Vanessa so hurtful? Hailey just had to beat Vanessa in the contest! She trudged to an empty table and sat down by herself.

After lunch, Hailey strolled through The Lodge, the main building of the camp. She entered the hallway where they displayed all creations that'd been built that year from challenges, and where the best creations were displayed permanently. As she reached this year's creations, she spotted her beach ball. It did look messed up, but Vanessa made it sound worse than it really was. Hailey sighed, staring at her ruined creation. Why hadn't she thought to make both circles the same size? *I had only ten seconds. There may have been no time.* But deep inside, she knew that ten seconds would've been enough time to switch a small circle for a bigger one.

Hailey frowned and started leave when something caught her eye. It was a cute little ice cream parlor that'd been made in the same challenge where Hailey made her beach ball. Hailey read the label on its shelf. *Vanessa Colbert, age 13.*



*So Vanessa made this.* Hailey realized. She had to admit, Vanessa had done a good job. She'd used white for the walls, but had given it a yellow roof, which almost made the place seem more cheerful. Little flower boxes under the windows gave it a finishing touch. Vanessa had made it so you could take off the roof, which revealed a place to eat...with white circle tables the exact same size Hailey had needed! Hailey stood in shock, staring at Vanessa's creation. Vanessa, singlehandedly, had taken all the white circles that Hailey had needed, and then was making Hailey's life miserable because she had left no circles for Hailey.

Anger built up inside Hailey. She wanted with all her heart to take one of Vanessa's tables and move it to her own beach ball. And she would have, had the bell not rang for games time.

At games time, Hailey was standing as guard in Capture the Legos, which was the same as Capture the Flag, except a Lego creation instead of a flag that you had to get across to the other side without breaking it. Currently, not much was happening for Hailey, and as she remembered her discovery about Vanessa taking all the white circles, and an idea struck her. Tomorrow night, while everyone was roasting marshmallows, she could sneak into The Lodge, and put one of Vanessa's tables onto her beach ball. Then, her creation would look complete, and Vanessa's would be the one that looked odd because of an open space where a table was supposed to be.

"Hailey!" one of her teammates, Jason, called. "Look out!"

Hailey snapped back to the present to see Vanessa, who was on the other team, running away with Hailey's team's creation.

"I hope that's not a sign of how the contest will go, Hailey!" Vanessa taunted as she ran away, creation in hand.



The next night, Matthew made an announcement on the speakers that the marshmallow roasting was starting in 5 minutes. As everyone made their way outside, Hailey snuck into The Lodge, using the side door that led straight to the hallway. She crept to the shelf displaying the creations from that challenge. Hailey suddenly sensed something about the ice cream parlor that didn't seem right. As she tiptoed over to Vanessa's creation, it hit her. Vanessa had used windows! Hailey thought back to what Matthew had stated about using clear pieces. *"No clear pieces. Literally only yellow, blue, red, and white."* Vanessa had cheated!

*If I tell Matthew that Vanessa used clear pieces, then maybe she'll get eliminated from the contest.* Hailey knew that wasn't likely though, because it was just a fun challenge that Vanessa had cheated in.

Hailey's heart started pounding as she remembered why she was here. Her hands shook as she slowly reached down to take off the roof.

"What do you think you're doing?"

Hailey whirled around and stood face-to-face with Vanessa.

"I-I uh..." Suddenly, Hailey couldn't hold it any longer. "Vanessa, why are you so mean to me? You were the one who used up all the white circles, and you were the one who cheated and used clear pieces! Why are you getting after me when it's your fault there were no white medium-sized circles left? I've had enough of your taunting! Make it stop, or I'll tell Matthew that you cheated and used clear pieces! Actually, I'll tell him anyway! And-" To Hailey's surprise, Vanessa burst into tears.

"You don't understand, Hailey," Vanessa sobbed. She took a deep breath, and once her crying slowed down, she continued, "My mom has cancer. Her birthday's coming up, and I *have* to buy her something special." She started crying again. "This could be her last birthday" She said, blinking back tears. After calming down a bit, Vanessa resumed, "When I read online about this camp, I thought if I could win the contest, I'd receive \$50, which I could use to buy her a special gift. Once I got here, I saw how



good you are at Legos, and knew you'd be stiff competition. I knew that it was my fault you had to use a smaller piece for your beach ball, but I didn't think anyone else would realize. I figured if I made you think you were bad at Legos, then you may not enter the contest. I'm sorry, Hailey, I should not have made fun of you, even if I felt like I had to win. Please forgive me."

Hailey stared at her for a moment. "I forgive you Vanessa, but we have to do something! Entries are due tomorrow night, and I haven't even started on mine...so what if we worked together on one? Matthew said we can work in pairs and split the money, except you can have all of it."

Vanessa was taken aback. "After all I've done to you, you want to help me?"

"Yes," Hailey replied, "I really do."

"Well, I've already started on mine. It's an underground burrow, but I could use your help making the rabbit heads round like you did the beach ball." Vanessa stated.

"I was going to make a model of The Lodge."

Hailey said, "But I like your idea to do something underground. We should include tree roots, and put a tree where the roots are above it!"

"I like that!"

"Hello? Anyone in here?" Matthew's voice echoed through the halls. He came around the corner to see Hailey and Vanessa both look up at him.

"There you guys are! I've been searching the whole camp for you. They're almost done roasting marshmallows."

#### **FOUR MONTHS LATER**

*Ding-dong!* Hailey sat in the living room with her family, but once she saw Vanessa standing on the porch, she got permission to answer the door.

"Hi Vanessa!" Hailey greeted.

"Hello." Vanessa replied. "I, um, wanted to tell you something. There's good news and bad news. The good news is, I was able to get the perfect gift for my mom! It was this journal I made. I built the cover from Legos that I bought using the award money. I glued paper on the inside. I gave it to her so she could journal about memories, things she's thankful for, and other stuff she could write down to take her mind off her cancer. Thanks so much for helping me with my entry after all I did to you. I could not have won the contest without you!"

Vanessa pulled out a white, medium-sized, Lego circle from her jacket pocket. "I know you can't do much with this now, but I wanted to make up for all the teasing by doing something to show you that I'm sorry. I got permission from the camp to take it out of my ice cream parlor."

"Oh, Vanessa! You really don't have to give this to me."

"I want to." Vanessa held it out to her. "Take it."

Hailey accepted the offered gift. "Thanks." She said in a quiet voice. She paused, then exclaimed, "That's great that you found your mom a gift! But what's the bad news?"

"The bad news is she doesn't even need the journal."

"Oh no! Why?" Hailey questioned. Could this mean Vanessa's mom had died?

Vanessa laughed. "Because she's cancer free now!"

Hailey jaw dropped. "No way!"

"Did I surprise you?" Vanessa giggled.

"Yes! That's so remarkable!" Hailey rejoiced with Vanessa. "I was praying!"

"We all were, and we're so happy for you!"

Hailey's mom told Vanessa as she came around the corner. It was obvious she'd heard everything.

"God has answered our prayers," Hailey beamed, "And he's given me a new friend!"



## Racing McSpeed

Chester McSpeed was a big Lego fan,  
And speedy with all Lego bricks.  
Puffed up with pride, Chester entered a race  
And cried, "I will show them my tricks!"

Race day arrived, and he swaggered right in.  
"The trophy will soon be all mine!  
I am the best, of whom no one can beat,  
It's impossible breaking my time!"

Taking a seat, Chester held his head high,  
Not doubting at all he would win.  
Merrily waiting for racing to start,  
His face held a big cocky grin.

Judges stood up to explain all the rules.  
A fire truck was what they'd construct.  
Whoever went fastest would win the whole race,  
As long as theirs looked like a truck.

Racing began, and McSpeed took his time.  
He might as well take a short break.  
Wait just a minute, the Legos weren't red!  
A fire truck would be hard to make.

"That's not a problem!" He laughed as he stood.  
"I know I have time to get mine."  
Chester walked out, and then hopped in his car.  
He drove home while taking his time.

He gathered his Legos, the ones that were red,  
And drove to the contest with glee.  
Building a fire truck, it took him a minute.  
He held it so all folks could see.

"I am the winner! Nobody beats me!"  
But something was wrong with his truck.  
His truck was not red, but in fact it was green.  
He lost with such terrible luck.

This may seem hard to believe my dear friend,  
It may seem to blow you away,  
Chester was colorblind, and all his pride,  
Consumes him now day after day.

# Lego Tacos

Tacos are one of the world's best meals, which is why you'd think that Lego Tacos is one of the best places to eat — except they don't sell tacos!

This interesting Lego restaurant is a very, well, interesting place to eat. First of all, the floor is bumpy. It is like a popcorn ceiling on the floor, except much worse. (They do serve popcorn by the way).

Second, the food is rather odd. It tastes like plastic that was melted, and then hardened into molds. The food also sticks to the plate (or bowl), which isn't great either. Literally, you pick up your spoon, stick it in your bowl, and the bowl comes with it. It's pretty disappointing when you're looking forward to a delicious bowl of ice cream.

Also, as mentioned previously, they don't sell tacos! It's a huge disappointment. You walk in, order a taco, and they reply with "we don't sell those." They really should consider changing their name. Appropriate names might be "The Plastic Diner" or "Bumpy Floor" or maybe even "Goodbye Ice Cream".

Lego Tacos also doesn't even have a theme. It may sound Mexican, but it's not. The menu basically consists of fruit and carrots, with a little bit of main dish to go with it. It makes you wonder if the manager just walked into the produce section to buy whatever was on clearance!

Something else strange about Lego Tacos is that the waiters have a hard time letting go of the food. Either they're too fond of it to see it get eaten, or maybe simply because they have Lego hands that are made to hold tightly to other Legos. Oh, and that's another thing. They don't use trays! They literally hand you your food! (Probably with a "*cough, cough*. Yeah, I'm just getting over Influenza. Enjoy.")

So don't eat at Lego Tacos unless you like sticky food (and honey doesn't count) or unless you're a big fan of popcorn ceilings (which, I'm guessing you're not, because nobody is these days.) But then again, their popcorn is yummy.

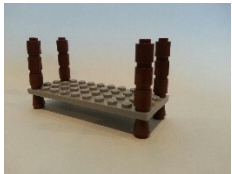


# Build the Bunks

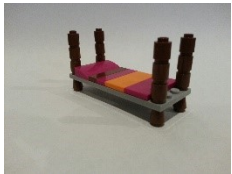
Is the thought of a simple Lego bed so dull your Lego people fall asleep? Well how about a nice bunk bed for them to sleep in? Not only can you build bunk beds in almost any style you want (and in a short amount of time), but they save space, which can be limited in a Lego building. This will show you how to build a simple Lego bunk bed.



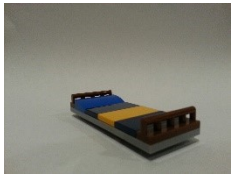
1. On the bottom of a 4x10 plate (or two smaller plates attached from the bottom) connect a 1x1 round brick or cone in each corner.



2. Flip it over, and in each corner above, put a stack of three round Legos.



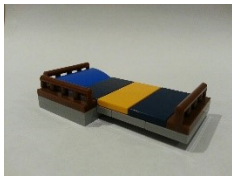
3. To make the covers, lay tiles on the bed, using a sloped or slanted piece as the pillow.



4. Repeat step 3 on another 4x10 plate, except on the top and bottom rows, use rail pieces instead of tiles.



5. Take a 2x4 plate and place a 1x4 plate on it, like stairs. Put a rail on the 1x4 plate.



6. Attach these pieces near the pillow of the top bunk, connecting the bottom "stair-step" to the bottom of the bed.



7. Attach the bunks, then make a ladder by connecting 1x8 plates to bar-fence pieces and leaning it against the bed. You could also use a 1x8 tile on the side where there'd normally be dots.

The bunk beds I built help give my Lego lodge a nice cabin feel, and hopefully yours do the same. I hope you (or your Lego folks) enjoy!



# Being the Hero

"I'm leaving," Diego Lego announced one morning, thinking he could finally prove himself. "I'm going to rescue Bill."

"No! You can't!" Mary gasped.

"Yes I can!" Diego Lego put his hands on his hips.

Little Old Lego Lady hobbled over on her cane, scowling. "No, you simply cannot. Crossing all the dangers to rescue Bill is too risky. And how on earth do you expect to get up on that floating shelf?"

"But it's not Bill's fault the human boy put him in that house." Diego Lego exclaimed. *And it's not my fault you guys never take me seriously.*

"The other side of the room's so far, it'll take you days!" Little Old Lego Lady pointed a finger at him. "Besides, you can't walk two feet without your legs aching!"

Diego Lego shrugged. "Well, at least we're together in that." He marched into the family room, leaving the rest of the Lego people silently staring after him.

After an hour of traveling, Diego Lego stopped in terror. Only a human's foot away, stood the huge, dreaded, monstrous toddler. Greatly feared among Lego people, the toddler was known to attempt eating Legos. The toddler reached a slobbery hand toward Diego Lego.

"Mmm, Smells like pasta." Diego Lego declared as the toddler grabbed him. "Um, mister toddler monster guy, where are you taking me?"

The toddler stopped. He brought Diego Lego to his mouth.

"NO!" Diego Lego gasped.

"Henry, dessert!" Called a bigger human's voice. Dropping Diego Lego, the toddler darted away.

Diego Lego awakened hours later. The fall must've knocked him unconscious. Was that giggling? Where was he? There were toys everywhere. Were those wheels? What were they attached to?

"OUCH!" He screamed as a human hand picked him up. The toddler dropped Diego Lego onto the thing with wheels.

It didn't hurt like Diego Lego imagined. It was actually soft.

"Twenty minutes 'til bedtime," A bigger human informed.

Bedtime? Was this a bed!?

"Whoa, humans get to sleep here?" Diego Lego gasped. The human boy really needed to step up his game on Lego people beds.

The toddler grabbed Diego Lego and placed him on the floor. Diego Lego heard a faint, whirring sound—the vacuum. Would it be safer to stay here? But then he couldn't be the hero. He slipped under the door, and soon approached stairs. The shelf was downstairs, and there wasn't a safe way to get downstairs.

Suddenly, he felt weight like a brick on him and a human screamed. Diego Lego had been stepped on.

The human dramatically hopped around, grasping their foot.

"Am I really that bad?" Diego Lego raised an eyebrow, then groaning, grasped his back.

"Seriously, you have it good."

The human left, stomping towards the toddler. A few minutes later, the toddler came by. Diego Lego had never been so excited to see his foe. The toddler stepped forward and Diego Lego leapt onto his foot.

"Yee-haw!" Diego Lego waved his hand as they toddled down the stairs. The toddler was like a bucking horse.

After reaching ground, Diego Lego dismounted with one smooth leap. He covered his ears because of a loud noise, and dizziness soon kicked in.

Whoosh! Diego Lego was suddenly sucked into a small, cylinder cage. He whirled and bumped around until the vacuum shut off.

“Okay, now where’d my hand go? Oh, and my hair’s missing.” Diego Lego clutched his back, still sore from being stepped on. “So much for being the hero.”

“A hero you say?” A small voice came from inside the vacuum.

“Who are you?” Diego Lego looked around.

“I’m Della the Dust Bunny. You said something about a hero?”

Diego Lego spotted her. “Yeah, my friend’s stuck on a shelf. Nobody takes me seriously, so I decided to rescue him to prove that I can be a hero.”

“Oh, Honey.” Della shook her head. “That’s not a hero at all! A hero isn’t someone who saves another for themselves. It’s somebody who puts the other first, someone willing to give all they have — even their life — to rescue the other.”

Diego Lego pondered this. “I’ve been selfish,” he whispered.

Della smiled, pointing to a pipe entrance inches above her. “You can escape through that, I’ll give you a boost.”

Diego Lego brightened. “Thanks!”

Della handed him some string she’d found. “You might need this.”

Della hoisted Diego Lego into the pipe, and Diego Lego squirmed through the dusty tube. He was relieved to reach ground.

Diego Lego spotted the shelf, then after climbing a desk near it, he stood on the desktop and tossed the thin string as far as it could go. It didn’t reach the shelf. Diego Lego straightened the string out on the desktop, and found it was about a foot. He walked to the end, observing it was made of four thinner strands. He unwound the thin strands to get two separate strings. Each new string now had two strands. After many attempts he was able to tie them together with his remaining hand (and help from his feet). He picked up one end of the now almost twice as long string and threw it with all he had. It worked! He had gotten the string to land in the Lego house on the shelf, and it caught on furniture inside it. He slipped his end in a drawer, then shut it. He laid on his tummy and wrapped his handless arm around the string. He used his hand to pull him forward.

“Yes!” he cried. He had reached the house at last!

He dropped from the string. “The view’s great up here!” There were the stairs, and there was the Lego table, and there was the human boy...gently placing Bill back with the Lego People.

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## Jesus is our Hero!

Jesus left Heavenly glory to come to earth to live among us in human form. He lived a sinless life, and by dying on the cross instead of us, He rescued us from our sin. It cost Jesus His life. That’s how much He loves us. When He rose from the grave, Jesus conquered death, and now “whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16). If we accept this free gift of salvation, Jesus will rescue us from sin!

*Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*

*Philippians 2:4-8*

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