

OUR LIFE GROUP'S SURPRISE

by Charlotte Adelsperger

On a January afternoon, my husband Bob and I prepared for the LIFE group that would meet in our home that evening. I prayed for each person and asked God to guide us in reaching out to others.

Later in the afternoon, I saw our young neighbor, Sophie, get off the school bus. I waved to her from our yard.

“When can we bake cookies again?” she called.

“How about today? I’m just getting ready to make brownies for our group tonight,” I said.

Sophie, a second grader, is one of three children who live next door. We often do activities with her family. Right away, she got permission and came over. In the kitchen she stood on a stool, so she could reach the mixing bowl on the counter.

“I want to come to your group tonight!” she said.

I explained that it was a Bible study for grown ups, but perhaps she could come for awhile. As a vivacious extrovert, Sophie begged to come.

“If your parents say okay, be here at 7:00. You can be our greeter.”

At 7:00 Sophie, eyes dancing, said hello to those who came. Each one lit up when they saw her and shook her hand. When the meeting began, Sophie climbed up on Bob’s

lap. Reverently, she listened to the opening prayer. Then, as though drawn by God's Spirit, she wanted to stay. She followed the words of Scripture and read some of it aloud. Not involved in a church at this time, Sophie eagerly took in everything.

Near her bedtime Sophie left with brownies and a slip of paper with a verse we gave each person. It read, "But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy peace....(Galatians 5:22-23) The entire verse stayed on her family's refrigerator for a long time. Our group continues to see God working in surprising ways.

