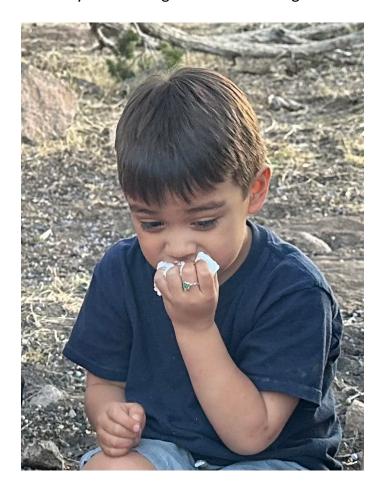
It's been an eventful week. Brody said that he had never gone out to cut down a Christmas tree... I decided that I should do something about that. Ray found a place outside of St George Utah that we could get a permit. Most of the family was able to go. It was a lot of fun. A short trip but worth it. We found a small tree close to the road but hiked to the top of a mountain just to be sure lol that that was the one we wanted. The kids had a lot of fun. On our way down, Zach was carrying his daughter Joy and slipped and fell. He landed pretty hard on a rock. Joy was not hurt. Zach has been really sore and showed us his bruise that is horrible. Oh my. I did not realize he hit the ground so hard.

After cutting down our very little tree, we built a small fire and roasted marshmallows. I thought I had brought everything for s'mores but realized I had forgotten the graham crackers. Good news was I brought the chocolate and the marshmallows, so who really needs the graham crackers right?







The kids all agreed that we had the good stuff! With the appetizer of s'mores we went to dinner before the drive home. I had a really enjoyable time. The kids loved it.

Unity, age 3. woke up the next morning and said "remember when we had so much fun cutting down the Christmas tree?" It was adorable.

Later in the week, Ray and I were in Mt. Charleston just finishing up our company Christmas event when we got a phone call from our neighbor Cortnie. She said someone was breaking into our home. She said a white van was parked outside. Another neighbor was broken into a couple of nights ago so the threat seemed real. Ray called the police but we knew a burglary isn't top priority. We have camera's in our home so I pulled them up. The camera's showed everything quiet in the house but I couldn't get reception to show motion history.

While Ray was on the phone with the police, Brody called Kartor and asked him to go to the house. We let Kartor know the police had been contacted but Kartor would be able to get there faster. Kartor was with his Dad when we called so they headed to my house together. Upon arriving the house seemed quiet and they went inside.

At this point we had driven down out of the canyon and reception was restored to my camera's. Motion showed a large man moving through my house. I immediately called Kartor and said "if you are not in my house, do not go in!" Kartor said "mom I am inside and everything is fine here. No sign of anyone, everything is in place." The large man was Kartor I was seeing on the camera... lol

In the meantime another neighbor was involved and jumped our back fence. He saw Kartor's dad and they both froze. They both demanded "who are you?" Once things were sorted out, everyone realized the house was fine and no one had broken in.

I called Cortnie to reassure her that everything was okay. She apologized and said she was embarrassed. She was home alone with her young teenage daughter and with the neighbors situation, she felt on edge. The white van was a delivery truck that was looking for our address so he was just parked outside our home. I told her I was really grateful to her for her willingness to call and for watching out for us. She felt bad about the entire situation. The part that I feel really concerned about is that next time she might not be willing to call...

I have been thinking about this with the gospel. The world is full of imperfect people. Sometimes we get in situations that we don't know quite what to do. Sometimes we don't have all the information to make the right decision. Sometimes we

make the wrong decision with the right motives in mind. I know that Heavenly Father wants us just to be willing to do the best we can. I know that He will bless us for our efforts.

He will bless those who, despite their weakness are willing to attend church, willing to ask their family members to forgive them, willing to improve, willing to keep the commandments, willing to be humble... the list goes on and on.

We get to decide if we are willing...

New Testament

Hebrews 5:9

9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.

Book of Mormon

2 Nephi 31:10

10 And he said unto the children of men: Follow thou me. Wherefore, my beloved brethren, can we follow Jesus save we shall be willing to keep the commandments of the Father?

I want to always be willing to follow our Savior. I want to try again when I don't get it right. I hope my children will always be willing to do the best they can to follow our Savior too.

With Love, Leslie





