

My thoughts #52

March 30, 2024

I finished my crocodile! I was trying to get it finished for the Minky show. Without Kartor and Teancum helping me fluff stuffing, I wouldn't have made it. It took 10lbs of Stuffing...

I really enjoyed making it!



This has been a long week for a couple of my kids. Life is challenging sometimes! Circumstances change for good or bad. We can often feel discouraged. No one gets to go through life without difficulties. As challenging as difficulties can be, we can look at our difficulties with gratitude. Gratitude for what we learn during the difficulties and gratitude for the good things around us during those difficult times. It is interesting that we feel our lives should always be at the top standard we set or better, never worse. Although days can feel tiring we need to look for the moments of joy and focus on them. I have found that in everyday there are wonderful minutes even amidst challenges.

Thursday was a really long day for me. From a narrow perspective, everything was difficult. However, for two hours on Thursday afternoon, my difficult day stopped to spend time with my cute granddaughters and Raymie. We have planned for months to have an American Girl party. We read the book “Claudie” and learned about history in Harlem in 1920.

Claudie’s father worked in a bakery so we made cupcakes and decorated them. The girls learned to “pipe” frosting and we all enjoyed our minute together. Raymie was surprised when I bought her a Claudie doll. Raymie has collected the American Girl of the Year and many historical characters. She loved playing with these dolls when she was young. I loved to read these stories with her.



It was nice to have a moment in the day to set aside the current difficulties and choose to enjoy my time with the girls.

Our Savior wants to lift us. He will lift us if we will turn to Him. I have thought about hardships and suffering a lot in my life. I have watched people suffer in circumstances that others would feel so blessed to have. It is so interesting how we each view life.

There are times we feel that our own challenges are harder than someone else's. There are times we know our challenges shouldn't be a complaint but we choose to feel distressed anyway. Usually we are not looking at life from the perspective our Savior would have us see.

Each of us will have hardships or challenges in our lives. If we aren't experiencing a hardship, wait a minute... life will change. If we are experiencing hardship right now, wait a minute... life will change. Some challenges are harder than others. Some challenges are not comparable with others as they are so great, however no matter how big or small, our challenges are meant to lead us to Christ. He can carry them all.

### **New Testament**

2 Timothy 4:5, 7

5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

### **Book of Mormon**

1 Nephi 14: 5

5 And it came to pass that I was overcome because of my afflictions, for I considered that mine afflictions were great above all, because of the destruction of my people, for I had beheld their fall.

The scriptures are an account of the challenges of people's lives. They are full of afflictions and hardships. The scriptures are also the account of the relief and peace that is found in Christ. As I experience challenges, I turn to my Heavenly Father. I know He hears my pleas. If I will, I know that I can humbly turn to my Savior with gratitude, amidst challenges. And if I will, I can have the peace available to me that He offers. It is this peace that carries me through my challenges. I know He is with me and will direct my life for good.

With love,  
Leslie



Raymie added Claudie to her collection.

