

Week 28—Opportunities

Read

Sometimes an idea has to slap you in the face; it's the only way providence can get your undivided attention. "It was a beautiful Lake Michigan day—puffy white clouds, light breeze, not too hot," recalls 23-year-old Joanne Marlowe. "I was pretty depressed about my business, and decided to walk across the street to the beach, something I had never had time for. I laid out my towel. To pamper myself, I spent a lot of time putting on suntan oil. Just as I stretched out, a gust of wind picked up the towel and covered me in sand. I hit the roof. A friend said, 'Joanne, instead of getting angry, why don't you figure out a fix?' So instead of relaxing on the beach, I spent the day coming up with prototypes in my mind." Eight weeks later she introduced a line of weighted beach towels and sold 4.5 million dollars worth of them, out of her house, within the first year.¹

¹ *If It Ain't Broke, Break It*, page 157, quoted in *A Children's Leader Devotion* (Lake Forest, CA: Saddleback Church), Week 23.

Reflect

Dear brothers and sisters, whenever trouble comes your way, let it be an opportunity for joy. (James 1:2 NLT)

Respond

What do you do when life throws you a lemon? Why not make lemonade? What do you do when winds of trouble blow your towel away? Make a weighted towel. Have you had any wind or lemons in your life lately? How can this week's verse make a difference in your life? When discipline problems arise in your class, how do you view them? Is it a burden or is it an opportunity? Discipline problems are never just "problems" to be overcome or set aside but opportunities to meet a child's need individually and to make a difference in his life.

Write your thoughts here:

Prayer Requests for yourself, your students, and others with whom you serve in ministry:

Remember

When the ice cream melts, make a malt.