

Got it. I've put that detail back in so it fully reflects your original memory. Here's the updated, complete version ready for printing:

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### **\*\*Aunt Gladys\*\***

Early in life, many of my stories are about fear and learning. I must have been 10, 11, or 12. My dad had a subcontracting job that weekend—we were going to install particle board in a newly framed house. I feared it because it would be just the two of us, one-on-one. The work was exhausting, the boards heavy, and I knew my dad would get frustrated if I didn't do something well enough. Anxiety weighed heavily on me.

I was outside loading the truck when Aunt Gladys pulled up. "Get ready," she said. "I'm taking you to Sunday school." I explained, "I can't. I have to help Dad today." She said she'd talk to him anyway. "You're going to Sunday school," she told me. I pleaded, "Do not upset him. Today is already terrifying enough." She pushed me aside and went in. I thought, \*This woman's not coming out alive. Might as well call 911.\*

Minutes later she returned. "You're fine as you are. Come with me." That summer, every Sunday she picked me up. Mornings and afternoons were spent planting pickling beets, stretching strings straight, washing hands, learning manners, rolling a little metal car down a cardboard ramp. She read scripture to me and told me how good I was and how the Lord would bless my life.

She cared about me. She made me feel safe, peaceful, and secure. I enjoyed those Sunday mornings more than I can tell you. Working in the garden wasn't like working with my father—it had purpose I could see. The compliments, even if the spacing of the pickling beet seeds was not perfect, made me feel valued. That experience gave me two sets of values: the loving guidance of Aunt Gladys and the hard work and discipline of my father. Both shaped me, but in very different ways.

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### **\*\*Nuggets of Wisdom\*\***

1. True care and guidance teach both skill and self-worth—hard work alone is not enough.
2. The right mentor or role model can show a child how to feel safe, valued, and encouraged while learning life's lessons.
3. There are countless children out there seeking Aunt Gladys. What will you decide to be?

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**\*\*Proverbs 31: A Woman of Integrity\*\***

\* \**"She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue."*\* – Proverbs 31:26

\* \**"She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness."*\* – Proverbs 31:27

\* \**"Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come."*\* – Proverbs 31:25

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If you want, I can also **\*\*format it for a clean, print-ready layout with clear sections\*\*** so the story, nuggets, and Proverbs each stand out on the page. Do you want me to do that?