

Hal had so many prickles. He had prickles on
his neck and prickles on his back.
He had prickles from head to toe!





The friends looked around. There were prickles lying all over the ground. Hal was shedding!





“Your prickles hurt me!” Uri told Hal.

“Me too!” Cried Rufus and Jo.

“But I don’t understand,” Hal said.

“I love my prickles!”



Hal looked around at all the prickles.
There were so many! It would take
him a long time to clean them all up!

“I don’t like cleaning,” Hal said.

“Cleaning up after yourself isn’t always fun,”
Jo said. “But everyone has to do it sometimes.”



Dear God,

*Help me to clean up after myself,
so that I can help my friends
and we can all play and have fun together.*

Amen.







Hal opened his eyes. He picked up one prickle,
and another, and then another.

His friends even helped.

Very, very carefully.



ABOUT THE STORY

Hal loves his prickles. But when he starts to shed, his prickles start to become a problem for his friends! A prayer helps him realize that he needs to take responsibility for his mess and clean up after himself.

DELIGHT IN READING TOGETHER

As Hal's friends react to getting poked, use silly voices to embellish their distress and make your child laugh. Some giggles amidst the conflict will help your child engage and understand the meaning of the story.

ABOUT YOUNG CHILDREN AND RESPONSIBILITY

Getting kids to clean up after themselves isn't an easy task—but you can use your child's sense of pride and accomplishment to get them excited about helping out. Praise your child for being a helper. Soon, you may find them offering to help clean up without any prodding!

A FAITH TOUCH

Being responsible and cleaning up after ourselves is part of being loving toward our friends and neighbors. That's what God wants us to do!

For each should carry their own load.

Galatians 6:5

SAY A PRAYER

Say the prayer Hal said when he realized he needed to clean up his prickles.

Dear God,

***Help me to clean up after myself, so that
I can help my friends and we can all play
and have fun together.***

Amen.

