

**Without counsel plans fail,
but with many advisers they succeed.**

Proverbs 15:22 – A Proverbial Story

By Ted Hildebrandt and Chapgpt

Once upon a time, in the little town of Willowbend, there lived a group of four best friends: Jake, Lily, Sam, and Mia. Summer vacation had just started, and they were determined to make it the best one ever. Jake had a brilliant idea.

“Let’s build a treehouse in my backyard!” he said excitedly.

The others cheered. Jake had a big oak tree behind his house, perfect for a treehouse. Without wasting any time, they gathered some old wood, a hammer, and nails from Jake’s garage.

“We don’t need anyone’s help,” Jake declared proudly. “How hard can it be?”

They started building right away. Jake drew a quick sketch of what the treehouse would look like, and everyone followed his plan. But as the sun went down, the walls leaned, the floor creaked, and one of the wooden planks even fell off!

The next day, they tried again. Sam brought his toolbox, and Mia brought snacks to keep them going. But nothing worked. The treehouse kept falling apart. On the third day, when the ladder broke under Sam’s weight and everyone tumbled into the grass, they sat in silence, disappointed.

“This just isn’t working,” Lily said, brushing dirt off her knees.

“Maybe we should ask someone who’s built something like this before,” Mia suggested.

Jake frowned. He didn’t want to admit that they needed help. But then he remembered a saying his grandpa once told him: “Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed.” Slowly, he nodded.

“Okay. Let’s ask for advice.”

The next morning, they visited Mr. Thompson, their neighbor who used to be a carpenter. He listened to their story, smiled, and said, “I’d be glad to help! Let’s start with a proper blueprint.”

Mr. Thompson showed them how to draw a real plan. He explained how to measure wood, where to put support beams, and how to use tools safely. Then they asked Jake’s grandpa for ideas. Grandpa suggested a pulley system to bring snacks up into the treehouse—an idea they all loved!

Over the next few days, the kids worked together with help from their “advisers.” They measured carefully, hammered confidently, and even painted the walls with fun colors. Finally, after a week of teamwork and guidance, the treehouse stood tall and strong in the big oak tree.

It had windows, a roof, a pulley snack basket, and even a name painted on the side: “The Sky Den.”

That afternoon, they all climbed inside with cookies and lemonade. Jake looked around at his friends, smiling.

“You know,” he said, “if we hadn’t asked for help, we might still be picking splinters out of our hands.”

Everyone laughed.

“And Grandpa’s old proverb was right,” Jake added. “‘Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed.’ I’m glad we had help.”

From that day on, whenever someone in Willowbend needed advice, they knew just where to go—the kids who built the Sky Den, and knew the power of asking advisors for counsel.