Three Evenings and One Bag

Picture story • Ages 3–5 • B14

One evening, Salma searched for her little bag. It was under a chair. Her notebook sat by the window, and her crayon box was in another room. “Let’s choose one place for the bag,” Mama said. “We can test it for three evenings.”

On the first evening, Salma left the bag beside the door. She found it quickly the next morning, but its long strap crossed the walking path. “Easy to find,” Mama said, “but not safe there.”

On the second evening, Salma placed the bag on a high shelf. The hallway stayed clear, but she could not reach the bag by herself. “Safe,” Salma said, “but too high.”

On the third evening, Mama fixed a low hook beside the cupboard. Salma held the bag and saw that the hook was close to her hand and away from the hallway.

Salma hung up the bag. She tucked in her notebook, crayon box, and drawing paper. Then she checked the strap. It no longer touched the floor.

The next morning, Salma lifted the bag all by herself. No one tripped, and she did not need help reaching it. “The first plan didn’t work,” she said. “It still taught us what to change,” Mama replied. The three evenings had not been a test. They had simply helped Salma find a place that worked.

Change the Plan, Not the Child

Question: What did Salma learn from the first two places?

Safe activity: Choose one often-misplaced item and test a low, safe place for three tries. After each try, ask: Was it easy to reach? Did the walkway stay clear? Then adjust the place.

For the grown-up: Three is part of the story, not a treatment period or fixed rule. Do not tie the routine to the child’s worth or faith. Secure hooks and furniture safely and keep straps out of walkways.

Original fiction inspired by “Until the Self Grows Steady — Practical Steadiness Program,” physical PDF pages 6, 12, and 139. No direct Qur’an or hadith quotation appears in the child text.