**Podcast C: ( 5 minutes )**

**Podcast following Lesson 6**

Oh Susannah music in the background…

Praiseworthy: I’m very proud of you children. You did a great job at that Town Hall meeting. It was a challenge, but you stepped right up to the challenge! And, you were very knowledgeable ~ you really opened some eyes about our government structure here in California!

All children: Thanks, Praiseworthy! Thank you – glad that’s over, whew, some of them were yelling!

Thomas: I feel like we did a right fine job, if I may say so myself! Maybe people will start to think about ways to solve some of our problems, now that we have helped educate them.

Jack: Heck, we are practically famous!

Constance: Jack! You know Aunt Arabella would say not to brag!

Sarah: I’m a bragger ~ we were smart!!

Everyone: Laughing!

Aunt Arabella: That’s correct Sarah, all of you were very smart. We will need to learn even *more* in order to make a difference.

Praiseworthy: That’s true; we have only just begun. There is a lot more work to do. Let’s keep walking, it is getting late ~ we need to get Thomas home before his parents get worried about him!

Aunt Arabella: Yes, it is almost past our bedtimes!

Children: Oh….awww , (moaning and groaning)

Praiseworthy: That’s true, even famous, smart people need their sleep! We are almost there.

Sarah: There’s Mrs. Clapp!

Louisa: (Huffing and puffing) Oh, I’m so glad I found you, hide Thomas, quickly!

Praiseworthy: What is the problem Mrs. Clapp?

Jack: We missed you at the Town Hall Meet…

Louisa: (Interrupting) Please, let’s get inside your house quickly, and I’ll tell you what is happening. Put Thomas in the middle so he cannot be seen.

Aunt Arabella: Of course ~ let’s hurry!

Praiseworthy: Stay by me children.

Children: Okay, we will.

Louisa: I tried to stop him, but he pushed me down. He is an evil character.

Praiseworthy: Take it a step at a time, Mrs. Clapp. What has happened?

Louisa: I received a letter from my sister just as I was ready to leave for the Town Hall Meeting. I decided it would take awhile for the meeting to start, so I sat down to read the letter. I must have dozed off for a few minutes because I was awakened by some hollering and scuffling sounds next door.

Thomas: Do you mean by my house?

Louisa: Yes. And I went outside and saw a man with a cane, like a sword. He was herding up Thomas’ family (I’m sorry Thomas) as if they were cattle. He made them get into his wagon that had bars all around it so they couldn’t get out!

Constance: Are they okay?

Louisa: I think they are mostly frightened. Thomas, your father tried to talk some sense into him and tell him that they are “free”, and that California is a free state. That was when I ran up to that evil man and protested, insisting that he let your family go. Then he pushed me down and held up his sword cane, threatening to knock my block off and put me in the wagon for obstructing justice! Can you imagine?

Praiseworthy: Sword cane?

Jack: Did he have a scar over one eye?

Louisa: Yes, yes, to both questions, an awful looking man.

Praiseworthy: By the Great Horn Spoon!

Jack: It’s Cut-Eye Higgins!

Louisa: I tried to open the gate on the back of the wagon, but…he took off down the road. He yelled something about the “kid”, and said he would be back to get him…he said he wouldn’t be shorted at least a hundred bucks he could get for selling a strong healthy boy like him.

Sarah and Constance: Oh, no! Thomas!

Aunt Arabella: Don’t you worry, Thomas. You will stay with us.

Praiseworthy: And I’ll do everything I can to get your parents and your baby sister back! We will get your family back.

Thomas: How will you do that?

Praiseworthy: Using the Rule of Law. In the morning, I’ll explain more about what we need to do. You are now going to experience the judicial branch at work ~ not simply telling others about it at a Town Hall Meeting! I need your help in gathering facts for good arguments. By the Great Horn Spoon! We will prove Cut Eye Higgins guilty of kidnapping and get him put him away once and for all!

Everyone: We’ll help, you bet, let’s get started.

Aunt Arabella: Thomas, you are safe with us. Tomorrow we will work on this; please get some sleep children.

Thomas: Thank you, I will try.

Jack: Come on Thomas, I’ll share my bunk with you…

Oh Susannah, music