



**Mennonite  
Church  
Canada**

Resource Centre

# When Doing the Right Thing is Hard

## Children's Story

Cycle A, Proper 7

Title: When Doing the Right Thing  
is Hard  
Author: Barb Draper  
Church: Floradale Mennonite Church,  
Floradale, ON  
Theme: Jesus helps in the hard times  
Text: Matthew 10: 24-39

### Wondering Questions:

- I wonder how Sarah's friends got such a mean idea.
- I wonder why it is tempting to pick on new people.
- I wonder what happened in school on Monday.
- I wonder what chances for doing the right but hard thing we will have this week.

---

This Children's Story is part of a larger story archive available as a resource to teachers, ministers and others of Mennonite Church Canada ©2011. Posted by permission of the author. Edited by Elsie Rempel, director of Christian Nurture for Mennonite Church Canada.

### Gathering Activity:

Welcome the children warmly and ask them if anyone has a new person in their class or neighbourhood. Ask them if they are being welcomed and are making friends. Explain that today's story will be about some girls who have a new girl in their class, and that it leads to a hard situation. The ideas for today's story come from Matthew 10 (show them the place in the Bible) where Jesus is telling his disciples not to be afraid about the hard times they will face for his sake. Invite everyone to become quiet and comfortable; to remember that our loving, faithful God is near and that this children's time is an important part of worshiping God together. Once there is a worshipful silence, begin the following story.

### Story:

Sarah, Betsy, Sandy, and Samantha were having a pyjama party. They were painting their toenails and talking and laughing just like all the other times,

but then someone started giggling about Dorothy, a new girl in their class. “She’s such a dork! She doesn’t know anything,” said Sandy. “Dorothy always looks so serious,” said Betsy. “Not always. I’ve seen her make smiley faces at Brian,” said Samantha through her giggles. This gave Sandy the idea of playing a joke on Dorothy. “Let’s write love notes to Dorothy and sign them ‘Brian,’” she said, giggling at the idea. The other girls thought that would be fun, but Sarah got a bad feeling in her stomach. She wasn’t having fun at the pyjama party any more. But the other girls were. “I know what else we should do,” said Betsy. “I’ll invite Dorothy to my birthday party next week. Then when Dorothy shows up, I’ll act all surprised like I didn’t invite her.” “And none of us will talk to her,” said Samantha.

Sarah couldn’t keep quiet any longer. “I can’t believe you’d do this,” Sarah said to her friends. “Dorothy is new at our school, she doesn’t have any friends and she’s probably feeling really alone. Why would you think it’s fun to be mean to her?” “Come on Sarah,” said Betsy. “It’ll be a lot of fun to watch her when she doesn’t know what’s going on.” “No, it won’t be fun, it will be mean,” said Sarah, “How would you feel if it was you?”

But they didn’t want to think about that. Instead, they turned on Sarah. “When did you become such a little saint?” said Sandy with a sneer. “Sarah goes to Sunday School,” said Samantha. “She thinks she’s better than us.” Betsy glared at Sarah and said, “If you don’t like our ideas, we won’t like you.” “Are you telling me to go home?” asked Sarah. Betsy didn’t answer, she just continued staring until Sarah felt tears come to her eyes.

Sarah grabbed her backpack and put on her shoes and coat. She walked home slowly, trying not to cry. Her mother was surprised when she got there. “I thought you were going to spend the night with your friends,” her mother said. “I was,” said Sarah and then she couldn’t say anything more because she was crying.

Sarah’s mother handed her a box of tissues and made her some hot chocolate. Between sips and sniffles Sarah told her mother what had happened. “You did the right thing,” said her mother. “I’m proud of you. Doing the right thing is sometimes really hard. Jesus knew that life wouldn’t always be easy for those who follow him, but he has promised to be with us in those hard times. Jesus told us that God sees every little sparrow that falls to the ground. That means God sees and cares about the trouble you and Dorothy are in, so don’t be afraid.”

“But why do I have to lose all my friends?” asked Sarah. Sarah’s mother gave her a hug. “Maybe you won’t lose your friends. Maybe they’ll realize you were being a good friend and were right. Your advice might keep them from getting into trouble. But even if you do lose your friends, you did the right thing. Following Jesus is more important than pleasing your friends,” she said. “I’ll bet Dorothy is looking for a new friend. Are you strong enough to offer her your friendship even if your old friends do make fun of her?” Sarah nodded. “I think so. If Jesus helps me.” Sarah’s mother gave her another hug and whispered gently, “Well, I think you can count on that. I’m so proud of you, Sarah. So is

Jesus.” As Sarah went to sleep she was feeling a lot better. She remembered that Jesus told his disciples something like, “I will stand up for everyone who stands up for me.”

**Prayer:**

Thank you, Jesus, for helping us know what the right thing is, and for helping us do those things, even when it is really hard. Amen.