



**Mennonite
Church
Canada**

Resource Centre

Gussy finds a Bunny

Children's Story

Cycle A, Proper 29

Title: Gussy finds a Bunny
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Church: Fort Garry Mennonite Fellowship, Winnipeg, MB
Text: Matthew 25:31-46
Theme: Jesus is both our shepherd and our judge. He expects God's children to look after those who are in need.

Wondering Questions:

- I wonder how the baby bunny got lost from its mother.
- I wonder why Gussy was kind to the bunny instead of pouncing on it.
- I wonder what this story can teach us.

Gathering Activity:

Welcome the children to this special time of the worship service where we talk about the Bible's ideas in ways that children can understand. Encourage them to settle into a comfy position so they can listen well. Imagine together that Jesus is there with you, and Jesus is curious about the story being told because it is about something that really matters to him. Show them Matthew 25 in your Bible and tell them the story is about some pretty grown-up ideas that are on this page in the Bible, but even though it helps us understand some pretty grown-up ideas, it is also a true story about cats, a bunny, and a little white dog.

Story:

Gussy is a cat. He is big and tall and has green eyes. He loves to play. He lives in a house with an old tan cat who lies around a lot, a little white dog who likes to run and bark, and with two humans who take good care of them. Like most cats, Gussy likes taking naps in the warm sun, but even better than that, he likes racing and chasing and catching things to play with. He has fun

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sneaking up ever so quietly to pounce on unsuspecting toes, or toys, or anything that moves or might move if pounced on. Gussy actually liked the little white dog because he was fun to play with.

One afternoon, Gussy went outside and snuck under the fence into the neighbours' yard. Gussy nosed around in the freshly cut grass and found a baby bunny that wiggled. It was so little that it didn't have any fur yet. Somehow, it had lost its mother and its safe warm den. What do you think Gussy the cat did with this wiggly little baby bunny? (Pause)

This time Gussy didn't pounce. Gussy felt sorry for the baby bunny. He picked the bunny up in his mouth gently and brought the bunny to the humans who lived in his house. They named the bunny Wiggles. Gussy and the little white dog watched as Wiggles was bottle-fed, and watched Wiggles sleep in a cage. When Wiggles cried, Gussy helped get the people's attention. When visitors came over, Gussy sat right close to Wiggles' cage and stared at them. The old tan cat, ears flat, stared at visitors, too. Nothing that could hurt Wiggles was getting past his sharp cat eyes.

Sometimes Gussy would get impish and get ready to pounce on Wiggles, but then the little white dog would come running and barking at him from the other side of the room. Caring for Wiggles was a group effort. These animals and humans knew something important about getting along.

Prayer:

Thank you, Jesus, for this true story of caring for a lost little bunny. Help us to take good care of each other, and to be kind to people and animals that need our help. Amen.