



**Mennonite
Church
Canada**

Resource Centre

The Droopy Plant

Children's Story

Year B, Epiphany 1

Title: The Droopy Plant
Author: Karen Suderman
Church: St. Jacobs Mennonite
Church, St. Jacobs, ON
Text: Mark 1: 4-11, especially
verses 6-8.
Theme: Water helps us draw near to
God.

Wondering Questions:

- I wonder how the plant looks now.
- I wonder what kind of cookies they baked.
- I wonder how else water can remind us of God's love.
- I wonder what else can help us know God is near.

Gathering Activity:

Welcome the children as they gather together for their special time. Remind them that this children's story time is a chance to draw close to God. It provides a time and place to remember together that God is near and delights in our worship. Open your Bible to Mark 1 and read verses 6-8 to them. Tell them that these verses made you think about water and God's Spirit, and those ideas are in today's story. It can help them think about how water and God's Spirit are the same and different. Invite them to listen to the story to see how.

Story:

Today Nicole was going to spend the whole day with her Oma (Granny, Baba, etc.). This should have been a *very* good thing, but something inside Nicole was sad today. One of the other kids in class was having a birthday party and everyone got invited but her. Oma asked if they should bake some cookies to help cheer her up. Nicole slowly nodded and started to make her way to the kitchen. Something else caught her attention.

This Children's Story is part of a larger story archive available as a resource to teachers, ministers and others of Mennonite Church Canada ©2009. Posted by permission of the author. Edited by Elsie Rempel, director of Christian Education and Nurture for Mennonite Church Canada

“Look Oma,” Nicole said, “the plant is sad, too, just like me.” Oma looked up from the recipe book she was looking through. Nicole was standing by the window looking at the peace lily on the sill. “Why do you think it looks sad, Nicole?” Oma asked.

Nicole gently reached out and touched a leaf. It fell off the plant and landed limply beside the pot. “Well,” she began, “the leaves are droopy and the flower is wrinkly. It’s hanging its head.” Nicole looked up at her grandma. “Oma we need to help it get better!”

“That is a great idea,” Oma said. “What do you think we should do?” Nicole thought for a moment. “We could play it some music; sometimes when I feel sad I listen to some music.” She put her favourite CD in the player and played her favourite song for the plant. The last chorus of “When you learn to follow Jesus you act a little strange” ended, and both Nicole and Oma looked at the plant. “That is a wonderful song, Nicole, but the plant doesn’t look any happier, and neither do you for that matter.”

Nicole sighed. It was true; she didn’t feel any happier, and the plant was still drooping. Usually that song worked for her. It was fun and silly and helped to remind her that God loved her. She knew that God loved her, but she felt droopy just like the plant. Nicole raised her eyebrows and looked up at Oma. “Maybe it needs to be in the sun!” she exclaimed. “Plants need the warmth and light of the sun.”

Carefully, Nicole picked up the plant and moved it to a bright sunny spot on the kitchen counter. She sat on a chair facing the plant and watched. The plant went on drooping and so did Nicole. “The sun isn’t helping either, Oma,” Nicole sighed. “What do you think we should do?”

“Well,” Oma said, “try touching the dirt in the pot. How does it feel?” Nicole stuck her finger in the dirt. “It’s all dry and dusty Oma! This plant is very thirsty!!” Oma helped Nicole fill the watering can and she gave the plant water. Very soon the plant’s leaves began to perk up a little bit, and the flower started to raise its head.

“Look Oma!” Nicole exclaimed, “The plant is starting to feel better!” Oma came over to look at the plant, “You’re right Nicole. That’s wonderful.” Oma looked down at Nicole, “Are you feeling less droopy?”

Nicole thought for a moment. “Maybe a little bit, but it’s hard not to feel sad when you’re left out of a birthday party. They were going to go to the swimming pool.” Oma hugged Nicole, “I know,” she soothed, “something like that always hurts. But maybe you’re a bit like that plant.”

Nicole looked up, “You mean I should drink a glass of water?” Nicole asked. Oma chuckled. “Well, maybe not water like what we get from the tap, but I know when I feel droopy like that plant, remembering how much God loves me and is always near is a different kind of water. Thinking of that makes me perk up like that plant did after we gave it some water.”

Nicole nodded her understanding, “So you mean that God’s love is like water for our hearts? If we feel sad or lonely that can help us feel better.” “That is exactly right,” Oma replied. “There is nothing better than that. Do you know what else can help a little bit?”

“What?” asked Nicole. “We can act out that love by baking and eating cookies together!” Nicole smiled her first real smile of the day. “I think that will help a little bit, too.” Together, they started to bake.

Prayer:

Thank you God, for water, loving Omas, and your loving Spirit, because they help us cheer up when we're sad and droopy. Amen.