



**Mennonite  
Church  
Canada**

**Resource Centre**

*Making new  
friends*

## **Children's Story**

Year B, Transfiguration Sunday

Title: Making new friends  
Author: Barb Draper  
Church: Floradale Mennonite Church,  
Floradale, ON  
Text: Mark 2:13-22  
Theme: Jesus makes friends with  
unpopular people.

### **Wondering Questions:**

- I wonder why Scott wanted to be friends with Tommy.
- I wonder how Colin felt when his best friend was being nice to Tommy.
- I wonder if the people I don't like would be nice to me if I was nice to them.
- I wonder how Jesus knew which people would be good friends for him.

### **Gathering Activity:**

Welcome the children to the children's time and gently encourage them to find a new place and sit down beside someone they don't usually sit with at story time. If they are reluctant to do so acknowledge that it feels good to sit in a familiar place with friends. After you have settled down into comfortable positions and thought about being in God's presence together for worship, open your Bible to Mark 2:13-22 and tell the children that the ideas for today's story come from what Mark wrote down there about Jesus calling a very unpopular person to be his disciple. Today's children's story is about Colin and how he became friends with an unpopular person.

### **Story:**

Colin was very happy when a new family moved into a house on his street. He had always wanted a best friend who lived nearby so they could walk to school together and play basketball or road hockey after supper. As soon as he met Scott, the new boy, he was sure that they would be

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best friends for the rest of their lives!

Soon Colin and Scott walked to school together every day; they played together on the playground and after school they played road hockey or basketball. One day, as they were walking to school, Scott said, "Look, there's Tommy Mitchell, let's catch up to him!"

"No!" said Colin, "I don't like him."

"Why not?" asked Scott. "He's in my class and he's got some neat hockey cards."

"I don't like him. He pushed and shoved me around in Phys-Ed. I think Tommy is a bully," said Colin.

"He doesn't seem like a bully to me," said Scott. "Besides, if we're friends with him, he might be nicer to you. Maybe if you got to know him you'd like him."

Colin didn't think he'd ever get to like Tommy Mitchell, and he didn't like the idea that Scott wanted to be friends with Tommy. Why couldn't Scott be satisfied with Colin as his friend?

As Colin waited for Scott at the school door before walking home that day, he saw Scott coming down the hall with Tommy. Colin didn't want to walk home alone so he joined them, making sure he walked beside Scott. After supper, when Colin went over to Scott's house to shoot some hoops, Tommy was there, too.

"Okay," thought Colin, "I'll try being friendly. Here's goes nothing!" And he went to join them. He was surprised by how nice Tommy was to him. They played until it was too dark to see. As he walked home, Colin thought to himself, "Tommy seems different.

He was playing fair and he didn't shove me around. Maybe he didn't do it on purpose that other time. I guess he's not a bully. I guess Tommy and Scott can both be my friends."

**Prayer:**

Thank you Jesus, for helping people become friends, even when they don't think they want to be friends. Please help us have the courage to be friends with unpopular people. Amen.