



Children's Story

Year C, Easter 2

From Coward to Courageous!

Title: From Coward to Courageous!
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Text: Acts 5:17-32

Today is the 2nd Sunday of Easter, the season when Christians around the world celebrate that Jesus is alive! You might wonder what difference does it make that Jesus is alive? We can't see him or touch him, so does it matter that the disciples saw him on Easter morning? During this Easter season, we are hearing stories from the Bible book of Acts. The stories are about what happens to the disciples after Jesus goes to heaven.

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Bible Story:

After Jesus died, the disciples were scared at first. They stopped telling other people about Jesus because they were afraid they might be killed like Jesus was. But then Easter happened, Jesus was alive again, and they got excited. They knew that God was stronger than death and that God would always take care of them. They began telling lots of people about Jesus. Sure enough, it got them in trouble. Peter and some others got thrown in jail, but at night time, an angel let them out. Instead of running away scared and trying to hide, Peter went right back to the temple and told the people, "God raised Jesus from the dead and now Jesus wants to forgive our sins, teach us how to live, and someday we will live in heaven with him." The chief priests and police did not like this because the people were listening to Peter instead of them. They arrested the disciples and whipped them. They told them not to tell stories about Jesus. But the disciples never stopped telling those stories. Because they knew Jesus was alive, they went from being scaredy-cat cowards to being courageous!

Sophie's Bravery:

Sophie has many good friends in her grade two class at school. She always had someone to play with at recess, and someone to work with when there was a hard math question or a big group project, and friends to talk with. One day there was a new girl at school. The new girl was wearing a very ugly coat at recess time. It looked like something she got from an older brother. It was camouflage green, too big for her, and the elbows were ripped. On top of that ugliness, she was wearing an old orange toque that looked like it belonged to a construction worker-maybe her dad or an uncle. It was too big too. Some of Sophie's friends, who had really pretty new clothes, didn't want to play with her. They thought she was odd. Some of them started whispering to each other

about how ugly the coat was, and how maybe the new girl should go back where ever she came from. The nasty talk made Sophie upset. She wanted to be nice to the new girl, but she was also afraid that if she talked to her, that her own friends might want to send her away too. Then Sophie remembered that Jesus always talked with poor people, touched sick people, and even paid attention to children. She thought of the disciples who, even when they were afraid, wanted to tell people about Jesus. Sophie asked her friends to stop saying mean things. Then she went to the new girl and asked her to play. The next day, Sophie and her friends asked Karen, that was the new girls name, to join in their skipping game. Karen was really good at it. She even knew some fun new games that she taught all of them to play.

Remembering stories of Jesus can give us the courage to help other people even when we don't know them.

Prayer:

Dear God, sometimes we are too worried about what other people think. Please help us to be like the disciples who told stories about Jesus even when it was dangerous for them. Help us to be like Sophie, and to be kind to people who need friends, even if they seem a little different than us. AMEN

Question for adults:

How does knowing about Jesus' resurrection make you less fearful?