

Children's Story: Don't Just Assume

Leader's Note: This children's time is inspired by Partners in Hope: Working for Peace in Afghanistan, 2012 by Rebecca Sherbino. It was written by the Senior Sunday School class (and their teacher, Jennifer MacLennan) of Bethel Presbyterian Church, Scotsburn, NS. You can have youth, children, or adults act this out as a play, or one person could tell it as a story.

Scene 1: The Lunch

Nick (youth) is sitting on the ground crying. He has on a scruffy t-shirt and jeans with holes in them. His backpack is sitting next to him. Three girls (youth), Felicia, Graicen, and Elizabeth stroll by and notice Nick is crying.

Graicen: Isn't that the new kid?

Elizabeth: Yes, I think his name is Nick.

Felicia: Why is he crying?

Graicen: Maybe he's hungry.

The girls walk over to him as Elizabeth reaches into her lunch bag and pulls out an apple.

Elizabeth: You look hungry. Have my apple. It will make you feel better.

Nick looks up at the girls briefly as they pass him the apple. He takes it, but then tosses it away. He continues to cry. The girls look at each other confused. Shrugging their shoulders, they walk away.

Scene 2: Shirt off his back

Two boys, Tyler and Mason, are strolling by when they see Nick crying.

Tyler: That guy looks like he's crying.

Mason: He's probably cold, he's only wearing a t-shirt.

Tyler: Here kid, put this on, it will keep you warm.

Tyler starts to throw the sweater to Nick, but Nick shakes his head no. Tyler and Mason look at each other and shrug their shoulders and start to walk away.

Mason: You can't say you didn't try, Tyler.

Scene 3: Spare Change

Nick continues sitting on the ground with his head down crying. Three girls come in giggling and

notice Nick crying.

Tara: That looks like the kid I saw standing with his mother outside the line for the food bank.

Macaela: Maybe he's crying because he can't afford the fee for the school trip.

Molly: I have \$10 I made babysitting. I'll give it to him. Maybe that will make him stop crying.

She walks over to Nick and drops her money on the ground next to him.

Molly: I thought you may need this more than I. Perhaps now you can go on the trip with us.

Nick grabs the money and throws it back at her. Molly looks over at the others and shrugs her shoulders then takes the money back. The three of them walk away.

Scene 4: Can we help you?

Nick continues sitting on the ground crying. Three boys come by throwing a ball to one another. They notice Nick on the ground crying and stop throwing the ball. They go over to him kneeling down next to him.

Greg: Hi, my name's Greg. You're Nick, right?

Nick: Yes.

Dylan: We noticed you were crying, are you okay?

Nick: I don't think so.

Gillis: What's wrong, can we help you?

Nick: I tripped on this curb and I think I sprained my ankle.

Greg: Let us help you up and we'll take you to a doctor.

Scene 5: Ask and you will receive

The three boys pick Nick up and carry him to a clinic where he gets to see the Doctor.

Receptionist: Can I help you?

Greg: Nick needs to see a doctor.

Receptionist: Take a seat over there. The doctor will be out shortly.

Doctor: Hi boys, what seems to be the problem?

Dylan: Nick thinks he may have a sprained ankle, the left one.

Doctor: We'll have you on the move again in no time.

The doctor feels around Nick's ankle, bending and twisting the foot, then he wraps the ankle. Nick begins to smile and wipes his eyes.

Nick: Thank-you doctor, I feel much better. (He turns to the other boys.) Thank-you guys for asking me first what I needed instead of assuming like the others did.

AND/OR

Mission is when we reach out and help people in need, sharing the love of God with them. Sometimes, we do this through partnerships. Do you ever have partners? Partners at school, partners in sports, or afterschool activities? When you have a partner, you work together to do a project or learn a skill. When we help someone (like the youth did in the play), we first need to be sure of what they need. How do we figure that out? We talk to them, we ask them. When a friend is in a really bad mood, you ask what you can do to help, and you listen to what is say.

What about when the person you want to help is far away, like a child in Malawi or Afghanistan? You learn about where they live and what they need from people who work with them every day. Through the Presbyterian church, we have partners who help us to do this.

The Women's Missionary Society (WMS) and Atlantic Mission Society (AMS) are amazing groups of people in our church. They learn about people in need around the world and in their community. They ask questions. They find out what people need from Presbyterian World Service & Development, International Ministries and Canadian Ministries of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, or local organizations. They talk about it and pray about it, and then they share their money, prayers, and their time to help where they believe is most needed. WMS/AMS encourage the rest of us in the church to learn about those people in need, to pray for them, and to give.

When we love people and help them as partners, we share God's love with them. Jesus said we have a light inside of us that is from God. When we love others, we let our light shine. Did you ever give someone a great big smile and they smiled too? It's kind of like that.

Let your light shine as together we help people in need.

Prayer:

Loving God, we are glad that we can work together to help men and women, and children and youth who are nearby and far away. Show us how to let our light shine. Give us courage to ask people what they need, in Jesus' name, Amen.

The worship resources for Mission Awareness Sunday have been written by the Rev. Lara Scholey. Rev Lara Scholey serves a 2 point charge in rural Nova Scotia, where she has been for 14 years—Burns Memorial, West Branch, and Bethel, Scotsburn. Her congregations have a passion for Christian Education and for Mission. She is presently convenor of the PWS&D committee, having travelled to Malawi, India, Afghanistan and Haiti. Lara grew up at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Brampton, ON and spent summers in Gravenhurst. She lives in Scotsburn with her husband, Dr. Carl Adams, a physics professor at St FX University. They have 3 children—Matthew, Isaac and Charlotte Adams, all 12 years old, who teach her so much about life and faith and reaching out.