

God is always with us no matter what we might be afraid of stepping into...  
and all we need is "a little faith"

### **Bullying is not ok – Hamish's Story**

Hamish came home from school looking really unhappy. His shoulders were down, his face was sad; he looked as though the weight of the whole world was on his shoulders.

"Did you have a good day at school?" asked Mum. "No", said Hamish. "I didn't".

"What went wrong?" asked Mum. "Did you have a problem with your schoolwork?"

"Nothing like that", said Hamish. "Schoolwork is fine."

"Well, what's the problem?" asked Mum.

Then the whole story came out. Hamish told Mum about Achmed who was a refugee kid from Somalia. "It's really awful, Mum", said Hamish. "Those boys in Room 10 are just so mean to him. They make fun of the way he talks, and he's really trying hard to speak English, but it's tricky for him because he hasn't lived in New Zealand for very long. They tease him about the food he brings for lunch. One of the boys said to him, "Is that monkey food?" It was so rude." I just hate it."

"What does Achmed do when the kids are horrible to him?" asked Mum.

"He just goes really quiet and doesn't say anything" said Hamish. "But I saw him throw his lunch in the bin, and that's just sad because I'm sure it was food he liked and then he wouldn't have any lunch and he'd be hungry."

"What did you do when the Room 10 boys were horrible to Achmed?" asked Mum.

Hamish hung his head. "Nothing", he said, "because I'm scared of them too."

"Did anyone tell the teacher?" asked Mum.

"No", said Hamish. "We wanted to, but Achmed said no."

"Well, I'm glad that you are being a friend to Achmed", said Mum, "but maybe we need to think some more about those Room 10 boys because bullying is never ok."

After dinner, Mum and Dad and Hamish and his sister, Sally, were sitting in front of the fire talking. They had read the story of the Good Samaritan together from the Children's Bible and they were talking about how living in Jesus' way meant helping people who needed a hand.

"Tell Dad about Achmed", suggested Mum. So Hamish did. "I just feels so bad, Dad, because Achmed is really sad, but those boys in Room 10 are so mean."

"Would you like to help Achmed?" asked Dad, "because I'm sure you could if you were very brave."

"I don't feel very brave", said Hamish, "but I do want to help. But what could I do?"

"You could tell those Room 10 boys that Achmed is your friend and they shouldn't bully him any more".

"What if they hit me?" asked Hamish.

"I don't think they will", said Dad, "but what about if I tell your teachers what you are going to do and ask him to keep an eye out? Would that help?"

"I'm not sure", said Hamish. He didn't feel very brave at all, but he wanted to live in Jesus' way and he really wanted to help Achmed.

"You do know", said Mum, "that Jesus is always with you, and you can trust him to help you do something that is hard."

"Yes, I do" said Hamish, "but I'm still scared."

But Hamish had a big think and he made a plan. The next day when he got to school he talked to his friends. They were all unhappy about the way the Room 10 boys were treating Achmed, but they didn't feel brave enough to do anything.

"We must", said Hamish. "Bullying is not OK." He told them about his plan and they all agreed that it was a good idea. At lunchtime Hamish and his friends sat with Achmed. The Room 10 boys started to come over towards Achmed. Hamish stood up. He was really scared, but he said in his head, "I trust you to make me brave, Jesus." Then he looked at the Room 10 boys and he said, "Achmed is our friend. Stop giving him a hard time." And then all Hamish's friends stood up too and stood around Hamish. Achmed was really surprised and a bit shocked, but the Room 10 boys were more surprised. Hamish waited. Then one of the Room 10 boys said, "OK then", and they just went away. Achmed looked at Hamish and he said, "Thank you" and Hamish could see he was nearly crying. "Let's have lunch", said Hamish. "And then we'll teach you how to play rugby."

That night Hamish told Mum and Dad all about what had happened. "I was really scared", he said. "But I asked Jesus to make me brave, and then I could do it."

"Well done!" said Dad. "I am very proud of you! And you are right. When you trust in God, you can do much more than you would ever imagine. That's true for grown ups and for kids."