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Hey kids and kids at heart! Welcome to 2nd season of the Different Isn't Bad podcast

This is a podcast your mom's and dad's and families can trust!

Miss Robin has over 25 years of experience working with kids and families. Her podcast lovingly guides children and families through short stories that teach them what it means to shine their lights as we all become braver, kinder and different.

Around here kids are important and different isn't bad, it's just different!

Come with me! Let's use our imagination as we go on a special journey through some of my original stories and other special featured stories by children's authors around the world.

Here are a few things you can do while you listen.

Close your eyes and imagine what's happening.

What do you see?

What do you hear?

What do you smell?

At the end of each story I'll be asking you to pause the podcast and connect. This means you'll need to think about what you just heard. Then take a few moments to talk with someone you love and trust. Maybe that's your mom or dad or auntie or just a good friend. Whoever it is, make sure you all share your thoughts.

There will also be a verse from my favorite book "The Bible" that I encourage you to remember and say out loud.

These are special verses that helped me do what's right especially when I didn't feel like it!

Today's story is about a little mouse named Marley. He is one of Stubby's new friends. If you've never heard how they meet, go back and listen to episode 11 - Little Ranch on a Prairie, you'll hear all about Marley and also Billy the bully snake.

So now, onto what we've been waiting for our story for today.

Marley the Mouse

By Robin Marie Johnson

Marley the mouse was afraid. Everytime he tried to get food out of farmer Dan's garden Billy the bull snake would scare him away!

Billy had always been a bully! From the minute Marley was born , Billy would chase him through the open fields.

Thank goodness Marley could move really fast!!

Marley's new friend Stubby the Cat stood up for him the last time he visited the ranch but today Marley was on his own.

As quietly as any mouse could be, Marley sneaked past Billy's hole.

His tummy was rumbling. Marley knew if he didn't get food for his family they would go hungry.

"You can do it Marley," Mama mouse told her youngest boy as she sent him out that day. "Don't be afraid. Be brave"

Marley had heard the same thing from Stubby the Cat.

He liked Stubby from the beginning! Stubby was different but he didn't let anyone bully him!

"I am brave, kind and different," Stubby had told Marley when they first met last summer at the ranch.

"And different isn't bad, it's just different."

"Don't let anyone put you down because you're a mouse Marley."

Scurrying past the wood pile towards the beautiful garden that Farmer Dan lovingly planted for all the creatures on his ranch, Marley felt braver than he ever had before.

Billy would not scare him again!

"Where are you going little mouse?" Billy the bull snake jumped out of his hole and hissed.

"Didn't I tell you the garden is NOT for you?"

Marley started to shake, then he remembered his mama's words.

"Be brave my little Marley. Don't be afraid."

"You don't scare ME!" Marley shouted at the top of his lungs.

"Farmer Dan told me I could eat whatever I wanted from his garden!"

Billy the bull snake hissed again hoping that Marley would back down!

"I will NOT be afraid! Farmer Dan is in charge of this ranch and he wouldn't take kindly to you bullying the other creatures"

Slowley, Billy backed down, slithering into his dark hole.

Marley felt sorry for Billy. He didn't have any friends. Maybe that's why he was so mean!

Straightening himself up Marley decided he would try to understand Billy and maybe even be his friend.

But for now, Marley had a job to do!

He wouldn't disappoint his mama! He would bring home food for his family!

Looking around the big garden Marley smiled.

Farmer Dan loved all of his creatures and none of them would ever go hungry while he was in charge.

Not even Billy the Bully snake!

Are you ready kids and kids at heart ? It's time to connect?

Remember to pause the podcast after each question and let everyone have a turn answering.

1. Have you ever been scared? What or who scared you?
2. Where was Marley the mouse trying to go when Billy scared him?
3. Who told Marley he could get food from the garden?
4. How did Marley get Billy to go back into his hole?

Can I tell you a secret? Miss Robin is afraid of snakes!!

All of us are scared of something. Maybe you're not afraid of snakes but if a mouse ran across your feet you might scream!

It's important to face the things that scare you. That doesn't mean you'll never be afraid of them again but it means that you are full of courage. Around here we call that being brave!

In my favorite book "The Bible" there are many stories about people who were afraid when they faced people who were mean and wanted to hurt them.

In the book of 1st Samuel chapter 17 A true story was told about a small boy who took care of his father sheep. His name was David. One day, his father Jesse told him to take food to his brothers who were in King Saul's army. They didn't have cell phones in those days. They had to walk for miles sometimes days just to go check on their families.

Well when David got to where his brothers were he ran out to greet them. It was then that he heard a loud voice coming from across the battlefield. It was a giant named Goliath. He was probably 3 times as tall as David was and he hated the Israelites.

All the soldiers, including his brother were afraid but the Bible says David stood up to him!
You can read the whole story in your Bible.

There is a special verse I like to remember when I'm afraid. It was actually written by David when he became King. Yes, the little boy who stood up to the giant became a King later !!

The book of Psalms is full of things that David wrote. Even though he became a big powerful King he still was afraid sometimes.

Psalms 56:3 says this

"When I am afraid, I put my trust in you"

Say it with me

"When I am afraid, I put my trust in you"

God is bigger than any giant we can face. He's bigger than our fears!

And we can trust Him to take care of us.

If you don't know God you can. He sent his son Jesus so you would have him with you forever.
He makes us brave!

But Miss Robin, I don't know Jesus.

Well let me introduce you.

Jesus is God's son who came to earth as a baby then died and came back to life and now lives in Heaven where he is building mansions, that houses, for all his children.

If you want to be one of his children all you have to do is ask.

You can say something like this;

“God, Jesus, I don't always obey my mom and dad. Sometimes I can be unkind. But I don't want to be like that. Please forgive me and make me your child.” Thanks

If you prayed this prayer “Welcome to the family of God” we are now brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. Now when God says, “Do not be afraid” which he says many times in the Bible you can trust Him because he is not only your friend He's your Father in heaven and He loves you and promises to be with us always! And God never breaks His promises!

That's GOOD NEWS!

Does that mean we will never be afraid again?

No, we all get afraid the difference is we have Jesus with us and he will help us to be brave!

Miss Robin would love to know if you became a child of God today. She has a special book she's like to send you that tells you more about Jesus.

Bring your parents and visit me at www.robinmarie.org then tell me your story.

When you visit my website you can also find all my podcasts with show notes plus coloring pages just for you and pictures of Stubby the cat and some of your favorite characters from my stories. Have your parents come with you and subscribe so you don't miss out on anything!

So until next time!

Remember, Be Brave, Be Kind and Be Different!

