

Hi parents or grandparents. This is Miss Robin and you are listening to the Different Isn't Bad podcast for kids. I'm so glad you have found us.

I wanted to make sure you knew that today's episode will help you and your child talk about some difficult things like loved ones and pets getting sick and sometimes passing away. Sickness and death is not an easy subject to talk about so if you don't think your child is ready for this conversation, skip this episode and come back to it when you need it.

Thank you for trusting me with your child's imagination.

Hi Kids and Kids at heart. Welcome to the Different Isn't Bad podcast for kids.

Last week we had our first ever interview with a kid. If you haven't heard it, go back and listen. In that bonus episode Ezekiel shares about his grandpa and how he got sick and died. When people get sick and when they die it makes me sad.

How about you?

Sickness and death are hard things to talk about. But it is important that we do talk about them. Talking about things can help us understand and get through our big emotions.

Just like being born, dying is a natural part of living in this world. Today we hear a story about a special cat and his struggle to understand sickness and death.

Listen in.

Stubby the cat was different. Born with only three legs and one eye he struggled to make friends most of his life. But his mama always helped him.

"Stubby, you are brave and kind, don't ever be ashamed of being different." mama cat would say.

Stubby blinked the tears out of his eyes. Mama cat was sick and she wasn't getting better.

"Mama, are you going to die?" Stubby asked as he stood next to her in the big backyard they called home.

"Yes," she replied. "But not today."

“We still have time to make memories together,” mama continued. “Let’s make today the best day ever.”

Stubby was sad but he knew that every day she lived was another day to remind her of how special she was to him.

“Here’s some flowers,” Stubby said as he laid a bunch of brightly colored brown eyed Susans in her lap. “I know these are your favorite.”

Mama lifted her head and smiled.

“What a good son you are.” She was glad Stubby had taken the time to pick them for her.

“And look mama,” Stubby continued. “I also brought you some Catnip! I know how much you used to like rolling in it.”

Mama used all her strength to roll over, covering Stubby with her furry paws as she gave him a gentle hug.

“I love you Stubby. Don’t be afraid. Even when I’m gone, I will always be with you in your memories.”

“But mama, I don’t want you to die.” Stubby cried.

“I’m still here, Stubby. Let’s make the most of each day.” mama cat said in a low whisper.

Oh how Stubby loved his mama. She had given him the strength to face the world when he wanted to hide.

When he thought no one would like him she told him to be brave and kind and show the other cats what a good friend he could be.

“God made you special,” she would say. “And you are special to me.”

Stubby laid his head on his mama's soft belly. He could hear her heart beating and felt her chest rise and fall with every breath she took.

Stubby knew that she would die someday soon.

But not today.

Now it's time to talk about the story. Remember to pause the podcast after each question.

Have you ever been around someone who is very sick? Who was it and how did that make you feel? Were you scared or sad?

Share some of the memories you have of people or pets who have passed away.

Now, share with that loved one who is right beside you some things you like about them.

When a person, where do you think they go? What about a pet, where do you think they go when they die?

I'd like to leave you with a verse that you can say and remember. This verse was written by Paul the Apostle who had lots of bad things happen to him and eventually died. He knew that when he was alive even though he faced hard things like sickness or being bullied Jesus was there with him and would help him through. And even when Paul died he didn't have to be afraid because he would finally be with the one he loved very much. That's Jesus.

So let's say this verse together. I'll say it first then you say it with me, ok?

Philippians 1: 21

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Now it's your turn. Ready?

Philippians 1: 21

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Talk to your adult about this verse, maybe you could even read the story of Paul together.

Thanks for spending some time with me today. I hope this story and our verse has helped you to understand that we don't have to be afraid of sickness or even death because if we are God's children he will always be with us.

Today you are alive and so is that loved one sitting next to you. Make it the best day ever. Treat them with kindness. Give them the gift of your time and remember to thank God for them every day.

I'd love to hear from you. Bring your adult and visit me on my website at www.robinmarie.org and on my instagram account at robinmarie59. You will find real pictures of all the animals in my stories, and find coloring pages there that you can download. Your loved ones can also find all the transcripts to this podcast and my podcast for ladies called "Chasing Different"

Don't forget our coloring contest! Listen to my bonus episode for all the details, it's FUN!
See you next time. Bye.