

Welcome back to the Different Isn't Bad podcast for kids. Have you ever been treated badly by your friends or even people you don't know and you wanted to get them back for what they did? I have!

In today's story Buddy the cat learns how to treat the other cats in the big backyard from Stubby the cat.

Listen in.

Stubby the cat was different. With only three legs and one blind eye he had been made fun of since he was a kitten.

"Don't you just want to get back at them?" Buddy the cat said one day as both cats lay in the sun next to the old red car.

Buddy the cat was new in the big backyard.

His old family had moved away and Buddy was homeless. Trying to find a warm place to sleep and food to eat Buddy had entered many backyards. This yard, with the kind people, was where he had chosen to live.

But the other cats were not as friendly as the people were.

"I was scared of them too," Stubby replied. "They were bigger, faster and had sharper claws than I did."

"Then my mama taught me something that I still do today."

"Tell me what she said Stubby?" Buddy was a curious cat.

Stubby cocked his head slightly to the left and gave a gentle purr.

"She said always be brave and always be kind, even when others are not kind back."

Buddy stood up tall showing off his strong claws and powerful feet.

"But I'm a fighter not a lover," he said.

Stubby looked closely at Buddy's ears. The tips were torn and mangled. Stubby was sure Buddy had been in a lot of fights!

"There is a time to stand up and fight but only if you are fighting for what's right Buddy."

Stubby was a wise old cat who had lived in the big backyard for years. All of the cats loved him and Buddy knew he could learn something from him.

“Ok,” Buddy replied. “What should I do when one of the cats is mean to me?”

Stubby stretched his three legs and leaned in close to Buddys torn up ears.

“You do kind things for them,” he whispered. “Like, not clawing them back, and offering your favorite cat toys for them to chew on. The more you show kindness the less likely they are to be mean to you.”

“But what if they’re still mean?” Buddy asked.

“Not everyone is going to like you Buddy and that’s ok. But you should always treat the other cats the way you would want to be treated yourself.”

Stubby moved over and allowed Buddy to share his soft bed.

“You are brave, kind and different,” Buddy said as he curled up not to Stubby feeling the warmth of his body against his.

“I will watch what you do Stubby and do the same.” Buddy knew that if he practiced being kind like Stubby did, he would be much happier and maybe even make more friends.

Then the two of them blinked their eyes giving the cat “I love you” sign and enjoyed each other’s company taking a short cat nap.

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

Why was Buddy the cat homeless?

Was Stubby the cat scared when he first tried to make friends with the cats in the big backyard?

Why?

What did Stubby tell Buddy to do when the others were mean to him?

Did Stubby tell Buddy that everyone would like him if he did what he told him to do?

What did Buddy say he would do instead of fighting?

Share about a time when kids were mean to you and talk about what you could do to show kindness to them next time.

Now here's our verse for today.

I'll say it first then you say it with me, ok?

Matthew 7:12a

So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you....

Now it's your turn to say it with me. Here we go.

Matthew 7:12a

So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you....

The Bible tells us to do to others what we would have them do to us. I don't know about you but I want people to be kind to me, not mean.

We can all have days when we are grumpy or upset but that's not who we are. It's only how we are acting.

Jesus met many people who didn't like him but he never returned mean for mean. Jesus knew that when we show kindness and love, even to those who are not kind, it shows that we are truly God's children because God is love.

Remember though, if someone continues to hurt you either with words or actions and you have tried to work it out with kindness then it's time to tell an adult. Showing kindness doesn't mean someone is allowed to bully you.

So today, try being kind back to someone who is being unkind to you. Remember that someday you might need them to be kind back to you. Especially when you've had a bad day.

I'm so glad you joined me today. If you'd like to learn more about me, Miss Robin, take your adult with you to my instagram account at @robinmarie59, I have some fun videos there along with lots of pictures of my family. You can also learn more about me and find coloring pages on my website at www.robinmarie.org along with all the transcripts to this podcast and to my NEW podcast for mommies, aunts or grandma called "Chasing Different."

So until next time. Remember Be brave, be kind and be different! Love God and love people.
Bye