

## GOD'S WORD

**“Don’t become totally absorbed in your own spiritual growth, but take an interest in other people and help them to grow too.” (Philippians 2:4, Clear Word).\***

## How Peter Befriended Billy the Bully

**P**eter and his parents moved to a new town. On Peter’s first day on the school bus, he heard kids saying, “Billy, there’s the new kid.” He turned around and saw a boy built like a weight lifter coming toward him.

“Go for him, Billy,” the kids chanted. As Billy walked toward Peter, his biceps seemed to dance with every step. Peter, who was a good athlete, smiled as Billy approached, and watched as he took a seat across from him.

“I am Billy the Bully,” he said. Peter nodded his head. “Do you have breakfast for me?” Billy asked.

“I did not plan for you, but I can give you one of my sandwiches,” Peter replied. Peter opened his lunch box and gave Billy a sandwich. He took a bite, and the kids cheered and shouted. In between bites Billy looked at Peter and said, “Your sandwich is too dry. I need something to drink.” The kids laughed, but Billy turned around and told the other kids to keep quiet or else.

When Peter returned home, he told his parents what had happened. “What you did was good,” they said.

“But what annoys me is that I know I am stronger than Billy,” Peter replied.

“Remember what the Bible says, son: ‘Love

those who persecute you,’” his mother encouraged.

Billy continued doing this for about two weeks. One day after school, while all the other kids were already on the bus, Billy came running. And as he tried to board the bus, he missed the steps and smashed his face onto the steps of the bus. When he lifted his head, there was blood gushing out of his mouth and forehead. He staggered into the bus and found a seat. Some kids began to giggle, but Billy was in too much pain to do anything about it. As the bus driver called the school nurse, Peter walked over to him and put his hand on his shoulder. “Is there anything I can do for you?” he asked.

“I think I’ll be fine,” Billy replied through cut and swollen lips. Peter offered Billy some water to rinse out his mouth.

The following day on the bus Peter saw Billy in the back. His lips and forehead were still swollen. Soon Billy came over and apologized for the way he’d treated Peter, saying that he could not understand why Peter was kind to him. Peter told him that the Bible tells us to be nice to those who mistreat us. From that time onward, Billy and Peter became the best of friends, and Billy changed completely.

### ACTIVITY

#### The Bible Heart Transplant Game

Dr. Christiaan Barnard did the first heart transplant on a human being on December 3, 1967, at Groote Schuur Hospital in Cape Town, South Africa. Unfortunately the patient, Mr. Louis Washkansky, did not live long. He died 18 days later of pneumonia.

Jesus has been transplanting hearts for thousands of years. Place the vowels (a, e, i, o, u) in the text below to find a verse that talks of Jesus transplanting hearts. Then ask an adult to help you find the Bible text and write it on the line provided.

“\_ w\_ll g\_v\_ y\_\_ \_ n\_w h\_\_rt \_nd p\_t \_ n\_w  
sp\_r\_t \_n y\_\_; \_ w\_ll r\_m\_v\_ fr\_m y\_\_ y\_\_r  
h\_\_rt \_f st\_n\_ \_nd g\_v\_ y\_\_ \_ h\_\_rt \_f fl\_sh.”

\_\_\_\_\_, NIV.

Peter’s humbleness helped Billy’s heart change. You can do the same to help someone else become a better person.

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