

No Kid is a Loser

Brian and Mark had been the most popular boys in their class ever since they had entered the first grade. Now they were returning to school and they would be in the fifth grade. There was a new boy named Todd in their class who had just moved to their town.

Although Todd wanted to make new friends, he had trouble being a good sport. In the classroom and outside on the soccer field, he would lose his temper when he could not have his own way. For this reason, the rest of the boys did not like to play with him. When he was given schoolwork to do that was difficult for him he would make a big fuss about it and upset the class. The teacher would then give him extra attention and try to help him, but the boys were tired of his behavior. Outside on the field, they would call him “loser” and make fun of him when he did something wrong. This made Todd very angry and he would lose his temper. He would then yell nasty things at the boys.



The boys’ teacher was a student of Christian Science so she turned to God to find the answer as to how to solve this problem. She called Brian and Mark into her office and had a long talk with them about brotherly love. After the talk, Brian decided that he would try to be more patient and kind toward Todd. However, Mark did not want to cooperate. He ignored Todd when he was being good, but he became mean with Todd when he lost his temper.

The teacher decided it was time to have a talk with just Mark. When she asked him why he couldn’t help being mean to Todd, Mark said that Todd’s faults really bothered him. The teacher pointed out that Mark was being so concerned with Todd’s faults that he didn’t see that he had faults of his own like intolerance and lack of love.

She told Mark that she knew he admired his dad a great deal because he was a kind, loving, patient, and helpful person. Mark’s dad was in the army and serving our country in a faraway place. She asked Mark if he was aware that his dad was fighting to put down those very qualities that he himself was expressing—hate, intolerance, and persecution. When he acted mean and hateful toward Todd, he would be fighting on the opposite side from his dad. His dad was fighting so that people could live and work together peacefully.

The teacher then opened the Bible and read Mark a verse from Romans: “Let us not therefore judge one another any more; but judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brother’s way.” When the teacher had finished reading, Mark looked at her and said, “I see. I have been fighting on the wrong side. I’d better get back on the right side.”

After that, the teacher was thankful to see that the boys were learning to work and play together, with Mark taking the lead in the effort.

S&H 497:24 “And we solemnly promise to watch, and pray for that Mind to be in us which was also in Christ Jesus; to do unto others as we would have them do unto us; and to be merciful, just, and pure.”