

Finding Friends

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A year ago Marta and her family moved to a new neighbourhood. She liked everything – their new house, the pink flower wallpaper of her room and the little water fountain in the garden.

But for Marta something was missing. She didn't know anyone in her new church or her school. Marta's mommy and daddy tried very hard to cheer her up with games, story-reading time and fun. But when that was over, she felt lonely again.

Every night before going to bed, Marta and her Dad had "go-to-sleep-story-time" in front of the fireplace. One night Marta's dad told her a story he remembered his granny telling him when he was a little boy:

"Once upon a time there lived a little Bean. She was very small. She loved walking in nature; she enjoyed watching birds and flowers, and clouds in the sky. After her walks, she was very tired and wanted to talk to someone, but she had no friends. Little Bean did not know any other vegetable.

One day during her walks she met a little green Cucumber.

"Who are you?" she wanted to know.

"I am a Cucumber. Probably you are a Bean," the green Cucumber replied.

"Yes, I am. But how do you know who am I?" The little Bean was curious.

My Mom told me about all vegetables. As soon as I saw you, I recognized you," said the green Cucumber.

"Where are you going?" asked little Bean.

"I am going home? What about you?"

"I am looking for friends," the little Bean confessed.

"Do you want me to be your friend?" asked the green Cucumber.

"Yes, sure!" she responded happily.

From that day on, the little Bean and the green Cucumber met almost every day; they played together, shared their toys and talked about many things. Sometimes they visited each other at home and had family dinners together. The green Cucumber introduced the little Bean to his other friends, and soon she forgot the time she had felt lonely."

Marta was listening to Dad's story as carefully as she could. When the story was over, she was still sitting thoughtfully.

"Daddy, may I ask you something?"

"Yes, sweetie," said Dad. "What do you want to ask me?"

"Sometimes I feel like Little Bean," said Marta. "I have you and Mom, but I want some

kids to play with, not only when my cousins come to visit, but more often.”

“You know, I noticed last week in Sabbath School there was one girl sitting next to you. What is her name?” asked Dad.

“I know who you mean,” said Marta. “She is very nice to me, but I don’t know her name.”

“Next time we go to the church, we could invite her and her family to our house for lunch. Would you like that?” asked Dad.

“I don’t know,” Marta shrugged.

But in a few weeks, this family—Alice, her little brother Tom and their parents—were all guests at Marta’s house for lunch. They all had such an enjoyable time together. Both families

visited each other often after that and even took a trip to the zoo together. Like Little Bean, Marta soon had forgotten about being lonely.

Sometimes we all feel like Marta; we need someone to share our thoughts, toys and stories with. Jesus wants to comfort us whenever we feel sad or lonely, “Do not let your hearts be troubled,” He says to us. “Trust in God, trust also in Me” (John 14:1).

The same way as we trust our Heavenly Father and Jesus we can trust all our troubles and sad feelings to our Moms and Dads. They know how to comfort their children because they love and care for them. And they will likely be able to help us find some good friends.