

## Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus!

A third grade girl named Sarah started bringing her bible to school to read on the playground during recess. She was so proud of her bible because it was her very first bible. You see, Sarah never had a Bible until her friend from another school gave her one because Sarah's parents had never taken her to church or never even told her about Jesus. But one day when Sarah was playing with her friend, the friend started talking to Sarah about Jesus! And once Sarah's friend realized that Sarah never had a Bible, she brought a brand new Bible to Sarah.

But oh, how crushed and afraid Sarah was when a sixth grade boy came up to her at recess, snatched her bible out of her hand and threw it on the ground! Then all the other kids began teasing Sarah for reading her Bible at recess. From that day on, Sarah was afraid to bring her Bible back to school again. What would you do if this happened to you? Would you stand up for your beliefs and continue bringing your Bible to school?

*1 Corinthians 15:58* says, "Stand firm, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord." Like the song says, "Stand up for Jesus!"

Many Christians through the years have been persecuted. Persecuted means to be mistreated because of your religious beliefs. The Bible tells us that Paul was persecuted many times because of his belief in Jesus Christ. Paul was sent to prison more than once, was made fun of for his beliefs, and was once even stoned and left for dead in the streets because of his love for Jesus. But each time these enemies came at him, Paul stood up for Jesus and continued his mission to carry the gospel of Jesus Christ to the lost people of the world. God protected Paul over and over again because God loved Paul and He had special plans for Paul. Paul was obedient to God and continued to carry out God's plan no matter who tried to stop him.

We are told in Joshua 1:9, "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." There are so many people in this world that need to hear the word of God. Maybe some of these people are right in your school or in your neighborhood. God wants you to be a witness to the entire world in His name. Just being brave enough to read your Bible in school at recess is being a witness for Jesus Christ. Are you ready to stand up for your Jesus?

*Prayer:* Lord Jesus, help me stand up for you everywhere I go. Help me share your good news with anyone who will listen. When I am scared, give me courage. When I am shy, give me boldness. When I am nervous, give me peace. Please show me the people you place in my life that you want me to share your story with. In Jesus Name, Amen!

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