

Reflection:

Here is a story...

The New Book Bag

Janey loved her new book bag. She was so proud of its shiny zippers and the cool pockets. On the bus on the first day of school, she made certain that all the kids saw it. She held it out to her best friend and said, "Look Billy, isn't it cool?" Billy mumbled something that sounded like, "Ya, cool." Some of Janey's excitement seemed to melt away. Billy sounded kind of quiet. "What's wrong, Billy?" Billy answered, "Nothing—nothing you can fix anyway." Janey knew that Billy's family wasn't like hers but didn't know what to say. "What do you mean?" she finally asked. Billy said, "Well my family talked and we decided that we wanted to give some money to the mission at our church. So this year I have to use my brother's old bag. But it is ok. Sometimes I feel kind of jealous but I am glad anyhow." Janey wondered even more. Why would someone use an old book bag and give money away? What did Billy mean? She asked, "Why would you give away your money? Why are you glad, Billy?" The response came quickly, "Because somebody needed the money more than us."

Janey thought about this a lot. Finally she asked her next door neighbor, Mr. Miller. Mr. Miller always seemed to have time to talk with Janey when other adults were too busy. Mr. Miller considered Janey's question for a long time. "Well, Janey, sometimes it is more important to think of what someone else needs rather than what you want." Mr. Miller continued, "We try to be like Jesus who came to earth and gave his entire life for us. So in a little way, giving to others and not getting everything that we want is sort of like doing what Jesus did for us." Janey asked, "So I can act like Jesus?" "Yes," Mr. Miller said, "in a way, we honor Jesus by giving to others." Janey smiled, "That is what I want too Mr. Miller. I want to be like Jesus." Mr. Miller grinned back and said, "I think Jesus is happy to hear you say that."

Discussion questions:

Today Jesus told us he is the gate. He is telling us that he is our role model that we should be like him. In this story, Janey learns one way she might be able to try to be like Jesus.

What other ways can we try to be like Jesus?

How do you feel when you try to be like Jesus?

Why do we want to be like Jesus?