

Simone won't do it anymore

This is about a time Simone told me about learning an important lesson. It's a lesson that we humans have to learn sometimes too.

This conversation started when I went out the back door and just about tripped over Simone. Or, at least, it seemed that way, but Simone heard the door opening and got back in lots of time.

As soon as I saw Simone right there I knew Simone wanted to tell me something. So I started by asking a good question for starting a conversation.

The words that I said **look like this.**

The words Simone said **look like this.**

How are you, Simone?

Better.

Have you been sick?

No, but I've learned my lesson.

What do you mean?

I used to do something, and now I know I shouldn't, so I won't do that sort of thing anymore.

What? What won't you do any more?

(Actually, it wasn't very polite of me to ask that, because it might be kind of private. But I was curious, so I asked anyway.)

I sort of don't want to tell you, because it wasn't very nice, and it was kind of stupid too.

Quite often even we humans do things that are not nice and kind of stupid.

That's for sure!

But then we humans can do a good thing about it.

What good thing?

Decide not to do it any more.

Well, that's what I decided, and I'm glad. It gives me a happy feeling to think I'm going to be smart about it from now on, and not so stupid.

Good for you, Simone. I'm glad you decided not to do it any more.

(I shouldn't have, but I was so curious, I asked about what it was again. But I made it sound like I wanted to help by listening, and I did too, though I think I was as much curious as wanting to help.)

Would you like to tell me what it was?

Well, okay, but you have to promise not to tell anyone else.

I promised. Then Simone told me.

I'm glad Simone learned it was wrong and stupid and won't be doing it any more. But I can't tell you what it was, because I promised.

A church word we use for realizing something was wrong and stupid and deciding not to do it any more is "repent." Like, you can repent about something you did, and pray, "God, help me to remember not to do that again."

(If you forget and do it again, God won't be angry at you, though maybe a bit sad. But you can repent again, and God will help you again too.)

*Want to hear more **Simone** stories? come to Esquimalt United Church for our Sunday Service starting at 10:45 a.m.
500 Admirals Road, Victoria, BC*

P.S. It is not every Sunday that Ted Bristow has the children time, so if you are in luck you might hear a Simone story the Sunday you come. Otherwise you have to come back the following Sunday and see if Ted is there.

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