

Simone had a good mom

One time I was in the garden in the back yard, watering the strawberries with a hose, when I saw Simone come along, though Simone didn't come really close until I stopped watering.

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

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

What are you doing?

Watering the strawberries.

Do you think they like it?

I think so. Water helps them to grow and be healthy.

Well, I'm healthy, so don't try it on me!

(I decided to tease Simone a bit when I said this next part.)

Okay, I won't water you. But it might make you cleaner.

I clean myself very well, thank you very much.

I'm sure you do, Simone.

My mother was good at cleaning us kittens, and I learned from her how to lick just right.

It sounds like your mom was a good mom.

She sure was.

She really loved you kittens.

Simone waited and thought before talking some more.

Well, I don't know. I guess so. She cleaned us and fed us and kept us warm. Is that what you mean by she loved us? I'm never sure what you humans mean by loving. What does loving mean?

Hm. Well, loving means two things to us humans. Sometimes it means we really, really like someone with a special close feeling. It also means doing things to help someone because we just want to help.

That's what my mom did for us. Did things to help us. Which way do you love that female human you live with? By liking her with a special feeling, or by helping her?

Oh, both ways.

I think doing something to help is a really good way. What do you do to help that female human you live with? (I've told Simone that "Selma" is the name of that female person, but I guess Simone forgets.)

Oh, stuff like cooking meals so she can rest, or washing the clothes so she won't have to, or rubbing her neck if she hurts, stuff like that.

I know about that. The humans where I live do that stuff for each other.

Do the children where you live love by helping too?

There aren't any children there. What could children do to help? You can tell me bout that later, because I'm going home to love my female human by lying on her lap.

(And then Simone walked away.)

I wonder what I should say to Simone later about what children in a family can do to help? Maybe you have some ideas about that. Anyway, here's a prayer about loving by helping:

***Thank you, God,
that we can love people by helping them.
Please help us to remember
things we can do to help. Amen.***

*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.

fFree to use in Family, Church or Childrens gatherings, Copyright 2003 Ted Bristow