

THE TIME WHEN SIMONE WAS SICK

Have you ever been sick? I mean, really sick, so sick you had to stay in a hospital? Well, something like that happened to Simone, and Simone told me what it was like. Simone told me about being afraid, and being brave, and remembering things that helped a lot. This conversation happened one day when I hadn't seen Simone for a while, so when I saw Simone, I started off by saying "How are you?" That's when I found out what had happened to Simone.

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

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

If you're reading this out loud, maybe you can make different sounding voices for Simone and for me. If you're reading it to yourself, you can hear the voices in your head.

Oh, hi Simone. long time no see. How are you?

I've been sick, but I'm better now.

I'm sorry to hear you were sick, Simone. Were you very sick?

Yes, I think so. I was so sick my humans took me to see the ..whatever you call a cat doctor.

You mean the Vet?

Yes, that's what you humans call it. I guess we cats are so special they have to have special doctors for us, because ordinary doctors aren't good enough.

I thought that was an interesting way to think about the difference between vets and doctors who look after us humans. Or else maybe Simone was teasing me by saying cats are so special they need a special doctor. Anyway, I just kept talking. I was curious to hear what being sick and going to a vet was like for Simone.

Simone, what was it like, going to the vet?

Scary. I had to be very brave.

My humans took me in the car. I don't like cars, but my female human held me and said it would be alright. Both my humans kept saying that. I decided to believe them, and that helped, but I was still quite a bit scared.

What was it like when you got to the vet?

Well, the vet talked to my humans, about my symptoms, whatever that means. Then the vet said that I had to stay there to be treated.

I thought that sounded pretty good, because I like treats. But I didn't like the idea of

staying there, because I didn't know what it would be like.

And then when the vet put me in a small cage. I really, really didn't like it. But I kept remembering that my human told me it would be alright, so I was brave, even though I was also afraid.

So then what happened, Simone?

Well, the treats smelled good, but I really wasn't hungry. Then there were some things the vet did to me, and I didn't like that part at all.

It must have been hard for you, Simone.

It was. But I kept remembering that my humans told me it would be alright. It helped to be able to remember that, even though my humans weren't right there. The vet, too, said that I would be alright, and tried to be nice even though some of the things she did were not very nice. I tried to be brave, and believe what the humans told me.

Good for you for being brave.

I remembered something else, too, that helped me to be brave, besides what my humans and the vet told me.

What was that?

Even when I was in the cage, I remembered the feelings I had when I would be outside, especially at night, when the stars and moon were shining, and it was quiet and peaceful. I remembered the good feelings I had about what you humans call, you know ..

You mean God?

Yes. I remembered those feelings, even though I was in a cage, and it really helped. It helped me to think that whatever happens, it will be alright, because, you know, God, will always be there.

And then I started feeling better and my humans came and took me home and now it really is alright, because I'm not sick any more. But, you know, even when I was sick it was still alright, in another way.

Then I saw Simone was thinking really hard, or maybe was having some special feelings inside. Anyway, Simone stopped listening to me, and just walked away. But that was okay.

There's a word that means what Simone said about being a bit scared, and yet brave too, when you remember what helps and believe it will be alright. That word starts with "f". Do you know what that word is?

The word is faith.

Faith isn't just about being brave when you're afraid. Faith is also about being brave enough to do good things, like be nice to someone who's lonely, or tell someone you believe in God.

Here's a prayer about that. You can say it, or just think it. When you've finished, you can add some words of your own if you want to.

Thank you, God,
that you are always with us,
even when something is a bit hard,
even when we're afraid.
Thank you, God,
that we can be brave enough
to do good things
that you probably want us to do.
Thank you for faith.
Help us to have faith,
especially when we really need it.

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.

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