

## Perley Learns About Being a Friend

Dear Church Folks,

Today I want to tell you the story of my friend Timothy. Timothy is a field mouse. When I get all my church mouse work done like cleaning up crumbs and getting my writing done I get to go outside and play with Timothy.

We have the best time together. We chase each other through the tall grass and play fun games like Hide and Seek and Find the Acorn. It's lots of fun. And sometimes we tell each other scary cat stories. But the best part of being friends with Timothy is that we talk about all kinds of things, like when we don't understand something we try to figure it out together. And we laugh so hard sometimes that our milk snorts out our noses but I'm not supposed to say that in church.

But being friends with Timothy hasn't always been fun. One time Timothy wanted to do something that I thought was a really bad idea. He wanted to go tease the neighbor's cat and then run away. I told him I didn't want to do that and that he shouldn't do it either because he could get hurt or even killed. Timothy got mad at me and said I was a Cry Mousie and a bunch of other bad stuff. He really hurt my feelings because I was just trying to look out for him because he was my friend.

After that day, Timothy wouldn't play with me anymore. I felt very sad and confused so I talked to my Mom and Dad about it. They told me that I was right to look out for my friend. They also said that being a friend didn't just mean that you laughed and played all the time. Sometimes being a friend means that you have to say things that your friend might not like at all. But if your friend is doing something that will hurt him you have to tell him he shouldn't do it because that's being a friend, too.

My Mom told me I should read the part in the Bible where Jesus talked about laying down his life for his friends and how that's the best thing a person can do. I felt better after I read that but I was still sad because Timothy wouldn't talk to me or play with me anymore. But I decided that I would just keep being his friend and maybe someday he wouldn't be mad at me any more.

Then one day Timothy was teasing the neighbor's cat and the cat almost caught him! He was some scared. Then, he realized that teasing cats wasn't a game that he wanted to play anymore. And he realized that when I told him he shouldn't tease cats I was being smart. Timothy told me he was sorry for being mean to me. He said he still wanted to be friends if I still wanted to be friends. I told him that I never did stop being his friend. I was just worried about him. So then we went running through the tall grass together and we rolled around and laughed ourselves silly. We were so happy to be playing together again.

So, if you have a friend who is doing bad things, you can be a good friend by telling them they shouldn't do things that will hurt them. They might be mad at first but if they're really your friend they will understand that you only want good things for them. You can be like Jesus who loved his friends so much he was willing to do anything to save them.

That's it til next week!

You'll see me soon, but not if I see you first.

Your friend, Perley