

Children's sermon: February 22, 2009
"Bowling Bully"

Listen to this song ... you will never guess the song or the group.
The group is "Jars of Clay" ... the song ---- "Like a Child" ...

Speaking of kids ... today Fred is a bowling pin. Not very big ... kind-of light ... just being Fred.
He is out for recess ... minding his own business ... when a bowling ball rolls along ... and knocks him over.
"What's that for?" ... asks Fred. "Hey ---- you were in my way ..." is the ball's answer.
I don't know about you ... but I can't stand bullies. They think they can do whatever they want ... whenever
they want ... to whomever they want. Just because they are who they are.

Fred is tired of being bullied.

He remembers last Sunday in church ... gathering around the altar ... having Communion.
He remembers the "jar of clay" sitting on the altar ... see? ---- here is the jar ... in the jar is some wine ...
they all share the wine ... it reminds everyone of how much God loves us.

He thinks of the jar.

Then Fred has an idea.

He remembers bowling last Sunday with all this friends. He loves his friends ... and they love him.
He asks his friends to put their names on his t-shirt.

So, today ... at recess ... Fred decides to wear his t-shirt on the playground.

Today ... with his t-shirt ... Fred looks different.

Look ... this is Fred ... he has been "transfigured" ----- he looks different, he feels different,
he's not afraid, he's got courage!!

Remember when Jesus was transfigured on the mountain-top??

Well ---- Fred feels kind-of the same way.

Sure enough ... the bullies come by ... they try to knock Fred over ...

And ----- it doesn't work!!

Fred is stronger ... he doesn't budge ... he stands his ground.

You see? ... Fred is stronger ... because he is not alone.

He thinks of the jar.

He thinks of all the names on his shirt.

He thinks about the courage and strength to be yourself ... and not letting others
push you around.

There is no room for "bullies" in God's kingdom.
Each of us has our place ... each of us is someone special ... and we need to stand together
when someone tries to take this away from us.

For each of you ----- a bowling pin.

Don't let anyone push your new friend around!!