

Making peace in the classroom

“Let the little children come to me.” —Mark 10:14b

Nael held tightly onto his mother as they dodged through traffic on the family motorcycle. Indonesia is known for its really busy streets, and their home town of Ungaran is no different. It was 5:45 a.m. and the noodles from his breakfast were sloshing around his stomach as they swerved around a *becak*, a three-wheeled pedal cart.

They arrived at *Wujud Kasih* (Foundation of Love) school, where Nael’s mother went to teach and Nael found the rest of the 7-year-olds in his math class.

Nael’s English teacher, Ashlynn Hamm, is a Journey International participant from the United States. Before the teacher began the lesson, Nael was goofing off with some friends. But soon the joking turned mean. A boy got angry and embarrassed, and ran off to be alone. In Indonesian culture, it’s considered bad manners to show anger. It was Nael’s friend’s mean comment that sent the boy running, but Nael felt just as guilty.

Just then Ashlynn came into the room. Nael knew the right thing to do. He went straight to Ashlynn to explain what happened. Ashlynn wasn’t angry. She was proud of Nael for doing the right thing. Together, they went to find the boy who was angry. When they found him, Nael apologized and promised to say kind words next time.

**This story is an everyday situation based on real people.*

Questions for discussion

1. Why did Nael go to the teacher after his friends were unkind to the boy?
2. Do you have an adult who you can go to if something upsets you?
3. When have you felt that you needed to talk with an adult about something that upset you? What happened?
4. How is Jesus like the teacher in this story? How is Jesus different from the teacher?
5. How can you be more like Jesus to others at your school?

Prayer

Dear Jesus, thank you for always being there for us. Thank you for being a counselor, a comforter, a teacher. Help us to build up others and show your love. Amen.



Photo by Ashlynn Hamm

Peaceful play—*Wujud Kasih*’s 2014–2015 first-grade class poses outside their school. From left to right, the students are Laura, Rayhan, Paska, Farel, Samuel, Josua, Kiki, and Nael.

Our gifts can help support mission in Indonesia.

\$100 helps one Journey International participant to serve in Indonesia for a year.

\$75 helps to provide a month of English lessons for a child at *Generasi Pintar* (Smart Generation), a ministry of JKI Maranatha. When children and adults learn English, it opens doors for more education and a better future.

\$25 helps to provide school supplies and healthy snacks at Happy Holy Kids elementary school. Pens, paper, and healthy snacks are important building blocks for a solid education.

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