

Surgery

Discussion questions

The following questions are used for discussion with the young people who have listened to the stories in this book. The goal is to get children talking and thinking through the means of the stories. The questions are not meant to be used to do therapy. Not all questions have to be used. Some questions are rather sensitive. If you are not sure you are equipped to follow up on a question, don't use that question. You are of course not limited or required to use these questions. These questions are merely suggestions to help a discussion

In this story the little boy is sad and scared because his father is going to go into the hospital for surgery. He doesn't share his feelings because he tries to be strong for his father and little brother and sister. Have you ever tried to act like everything was okay, when really on the inside you felt it wasn't?

- ❖ What was that situation?
- ❖ How were you really feeling on the inside?

This little boy had a good relationship with his father and was able to talk with him about his feelings about the surgery. Sometimes when somebody we know has to get surgery they are very sick or already in the hospital and we don't have a chance to talk to them. It can be very scary when you don't know what is going on. Sometimes people forget to tell the children what is going on. What would you like to know more about the health care your person needs?

In this story the little boy had a supportive community. They had family and friends, and even a church community. Who do you have to support you?

If you don't have a supportive community like this little boy, is there at least one person you can talk to when you have questions or when you feel scared? Who is that person?

In the story the little boy and his father are religious and they pray. Prayer helps people feel calmer and often helps them make sense of the world, especially when they feel scared. Not everybody is religious or uses prayer. People use different things. Some people just get quiet. Other people like to take a walk and connect with nature. Some other people like to listen to music. Some people just feel better being around other people. What is something that you can do, either alone or with others that can make you feel better?

In the story the little boy's father was going to arrange for the little boy to get a tour of the hospital and to talk with the doctor, so he would not be so afraid. Is there something the doctor could do for you that would be helpful?