

The Swimming Lesson

[Matt 5:22 "...whoever insults his brother shall be liable to the council..."]

Clownfish	Welcome, welcome to the ocean school of swimming. Today, I, the great master of swimming will teach you, the land mammal, to swim!!
Cat	Great. I'm ready. Let's get started!
Clownfish	Okay, you finless hairball, jump in the water.
Cat	Just... jump in? Without my bubble?
Clownfish	Get in there and swim you big baby, or I'll bonk you on the head with a banana!
Cat	But, I thought you were going to teach me!
Clownfish	What are you SCARED? Are you a little baby cat with a diaper on? Nah, nah, nah, nah, baby! You're a big baby! <i>(laughs)</i>
Cat	But, I've never swum before...
Clownfish	Scaredy cat, scaredy cat... <i>(laughing uproariously)</i>
Cat	I don't like this at all! I'm going home!
Clownfish	But why? You haven't learned to swim, yet!
Cat	Because you're not being very nice to me!
Clownfish	Oh, come on. It's a joke! You're supposed to laugh!
Cat	But you're saying mean things that hurt my feelings!
Clownfish	But I'm a clownfish! Clownfish are funny! I thought it was hilarious!
Cat	Well, it wasn't funny to me. You made me feel very, very small and embarrassed. All my good feelings went away.
Clownfish	Oh, I'm sorry. I thought you would laugh at my jokes.
Cat	But your jokes were not kind. They were disrespectful.
Clownfish	Oh. That's not good, is it?
Cat	No. It isn't.

Clownfish	Well, you've taught me something very important.
Cat	I taught you?
Clownfish	Yes. You taught me that my words should always be kind words.
Cat	You know, you just brought back all my good feelings! I'm starting to feel like swimming again. Do you think you could try teaching me?
Clownfish	Sure! Absolutely! I respectfully welcome my feline friend to the ocean! Welcome to my home and my school! Get it? School? Fish swim around in schools? Ha-ha! The joke's on me!!!!
Cat	Now <i>that's</i> funny! Let's swim!!!! Wheeee!!!

The End

Note: I always ask the children if it's okay to joke about our friends. By the end of this show they usually answer correctly in the negative. Then I ask if it's okay to joke about ourselves and they generally answer correctly in the affirmative. I ask them if they'd like to hear some jokes about me, and then I perform the following standing up and doing my best to be ridiculous:

- 1. I'm so tall that when it starts raining I'm the first to know!*
- 2. I'm so tall and skinny that when I stick out my tongue I look like a zipper!*

After a good laugh, I ask them if my jokes about myself hurt their feelings and they all assure me that they did not. Point made.