

Youth Culture Lesson
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Finding Teachable Moments in Culture
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Hair Apparent
Girl Shaves Head to Support Dad, Gets Suspended

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What Happened:

When 15-year Emily Pridham of Brisbane, Australia, learned that her father had leukemia, she decided to show her support in an unusual way: She shaved her head, mimicking her dad's new hairstyle.

Emily shaved her head as a way to support her father, who's been given just a few months to live, and perhaps raise money for cancer research. "Basically, my way of coping is to try to help other people going through the same thing," she said.

Emily's school was less supportive. School officials announced that Emily would be suspended indefinitely: She can't come back to class until her hair grows back.

Emily's mother is pretty upset with the school's stance. "I am just appalled that she could be suspended by a Catholic school that promotes joy, respect and community spirit," Barbara Pridham said.

Talk About It:

Have you ever tried to do something nice for someone and had it backfire? What happened? Did everything turn out OK in the end? Did you ever forget to show appreciation for something someone did, for you or someone else?

Do you think the school was unfair? Can you see its side of the argument?

What would you do if you were Emily? Would you grow your hair back as soon as possible? Try to find another school? Are there other ways Emily could show her support and raise money?

What the Bible Says:

On the way to Jerusalem, (Jesus) was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices saying, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.'

When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed.

Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan.

Then Jesus answered, Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith as made you well" (Luke 17:11-19).