

A bus drive with a difference!

I was a hot, humid Friday afternoon in Johannesburg when John got on to the bus for the Lowveld. At Pretoria the driver's cell phone rang.

"Please, can you wait for my children?" sounded a mother's pleading voice on the phone. "We'll be just a few minutes late - don't leave them behind." "All right, we'll wait" answered the driver, not too patiently.

Ten minutes later, a red car stopped behind the bus, brakes screeching. A mother leaped out and bundled two boys out of the car - a five-year old and a seven-year old. The bus driver recognised them.

"You two can be naughty little brats," he said as they climbed aboard. He called in the direction of the youngest one: "Hey! You sit here in front, and you" - to the older one - "you sit there, at the back."

The older boy shuffled to the back and slumped down in the seat next to John. The woman in front of John remarked aloud: "Good busdriver. Knows how to handle naughty kids." John shook his head, thinking:

"How is that supposed to make the child feel among the adults?"



Quietly he asked: "What is your name?" "Paul, Sir," mumbled the boy.

Paul took out his toy soldiers and started playing with them. John joined in the game. After a short while Paul was chatting to John like an old friend. He told John that he and his brother go to Nelspruit most weekends, to visit their Dad. "My Mum and Dad are divorced. I don't like it," he said in a small voice.

After a while Paul was bored with the robot men and snuggled up to John. "Tell me a story," he asked, and John obliged with a Bible story.

"What is this?" Paul wanted

to know as he pulled a small book out of John's shirt pocket. "It is a *Wordless Book*", John said. "Let me tell you what the colours mean" and started with the gold page. When he got to the white page, John explained: "You may now decide whether you want to be a child of God. Or do you want to think about it before you decide?" "No, I want to decide now", said Paul firmly. "I know this is true and I want to be a child of God."

Paul accepted the Lord and spent the rest of the journey fast asleep, with his head on John's lap.