**Therese the Beautiful**

Once there was a girl named Therese. She was a just normal girl and was happy most of the time. But as she got older, she noticed she was different from some other girls, especially the girls on TV. She was pudgy, slightly overweight, and had pimples all over her face. She also was shorter than others. Therese felt she was ugly and fat, but tried her best to wear makeup to cover all the red pimples and chose baggy clothes so no one could tell she was pudgy. Some days Therese didn’t think about it, and other days she felt bad about being herself. But once she went with her parents to what they called a healing Mass. There were specific prayers that would be said to help people heal from all different sorts of things. Mass went along as normal, but then the healing part started. They all lined up at the front of the Church and the priest came to each person and asked them what they wanted healing from. One man said cancer, another said depression, and another said back problems. When the priest came to Therese, he asked her what she wanted healing from. She didn’t know what to say, so just said “I don’t know”. The priest paused and looked intently at her, then said, “why don’t you see yourself as beautiful?” Shocked Therese started crying and again said, “I don’t know.” The priest said, “That is what Jesus will heal you from today,” and prayed over her. When he finished, Therese felt different, she was healed. Never again did she feel ugly or fat. She still was overweight and had pimples, but she still knew she was beautiful. Never again did she feel other girls were prettier. She knew she was beautiful because Jesus healed her and told her she was.

**Points of the Story**

* Jesus heals us on the inside. He can heal the outside too, but the inside is what really matters.
* We are all beautiful in the eyes of God and shouldn’t compare ourselves to others.
* Jesus can heal us even if we don’t know what we need healing from.