

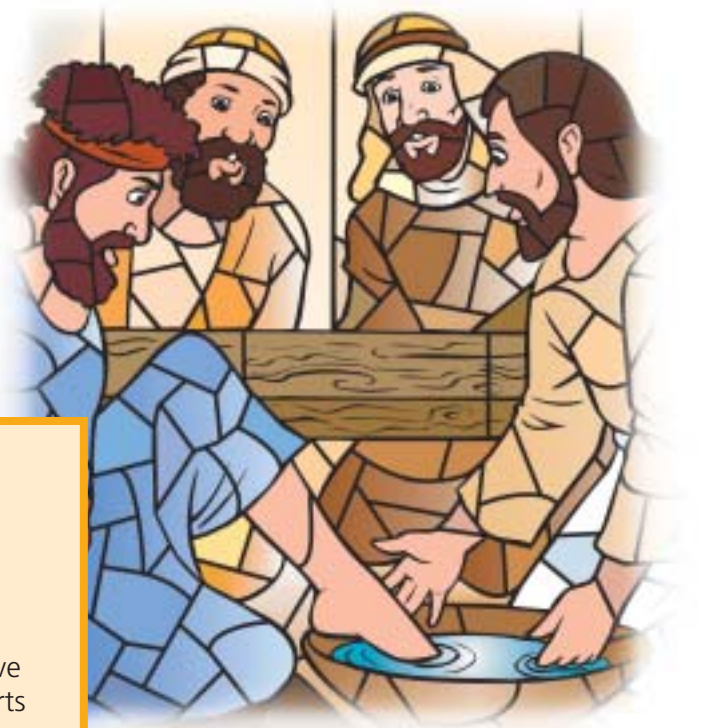
G-Force Parent Connection

Be a Good Friend (Y) Tend to Your Friends (O) Jesus Connected with His Friends John 13:1-17

Memory Verse:

This is what I command you: that you love one another.

John 15:17 HCSB



Need a Friend? Be a Friend

Christians should make the best friends. Why? We understand that Jesus did not ask, but commanded us to love others. Loving God and being loved by Him softens our hearts and makes us open to sharing our lives with others in the form of friendship.

Think about the friends you remember from your childhood. What were they like? Why did you enjoy being with them? Are you still in touch with any of those friends today? What has made those friendships stand the test of time?

Now think about the men and women you consider your most cherished friends. Hopefully, these relationships include the unique quality of assisting one another in times of need, laughing together, sharing the good times and the bad, encouraging each other, and praying for each other. For your children to develop lasting, mature friendships based on Christian love and mutual servitude, they need to see these types of friendships modeled in your own life. Find ways to let your child see you:

- Call a friend to offer encouragement.
- Purchase a get well card and send it to a sick friend.
- Sacrifice some of your own personal time to help someone else, such as giving a friend a ride to work when her car is in the shop or cooking a meal for a family who has lost a loved one.
- Pray for specific needs of friends during family prayer times.

Being a friend can be hard work, and it's important for children to learn this while they are young. Praise your child when he helps a friend, especially when it is a humbling or difficult experience.

Act On It!

Help your child look up these words in a dictionary:

- Humbleness
- Patience
- Compassion

Discuss how each one describes a characteristic of a good Christian friend.

Together, make simple puppets out of athletic socks, paper sacks, or popsicle sticks. According to your child's age and ability, write a script and perform a puppet show together about one friend who helps another. Encourage your child to help his puppets express God's love in their actions and words of friendship.

