

Friendship Deeds, From A-Z



**ncourage Each Other!**

**1 Thessalonians 5:11a**

***“...encourage one another and build each other up...”***

Building with Legos can be a lot of fun! Would you believe the world record for the largest Lego castle used 400,000 bricks? That’s a ton of bricks, and I’m sure it took a huge amount of time, too. Just imagine how fun it would be to make a Lego castle that tall! And what if a Lego-loving friend came to help? Then you could make the building taller in half the amount of effort, right (and also have more fun in the process)?

In a way, you can be a builder of people, too. Sure, God’s already made each person on the outside, but He has given you a responsibility to help build others up in a different kind of way--by encouraging them. The dictionary says that the word encourage means *“to inspire with hope, courage, or confidence.”* This means that each time you use your words to stir up the good in another person, you encourage them!

Not only can you encourage with words, but with your actions, too. For example, it probably *“inspires your mom with hope”* when you clean your room...just ask her! You can encourage a friend by giving them a smile or writing them a note. You can also lift the spirits of someone who is feeling left out just by inviting them to play with you.

OK—now go back to the imagination bubble at the top: What if the friend that came over to help build your Lego castle tore it down instead? It is the same thing, dear child, when you hurt others with your words or actions. When you say words like, *“I don’t like you,”* or *“You’re not my friend anymore,”* or *“You’re not good at dodge ball,”* you’re tearing them down. In doing so, you have done the exact opposite of what the Lord has asked you to do.

Ask God today to help you be a people builder. In doing so, your relationships will stand tall and strong, just the way He planned it!

**Discuss the following questions with your parent/s:**

- 1. How have others encouraged you with their words or actions? How can you do the same for them?**
- 2. Read and discuss this Scripture from Hebrews 10:24: “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.”**
- 3. Confess to God any of your actions or words that have hurt others. Ask Him to help you make a fresh start.**

*From legos to sports, what will it be? Tune it to channel “F” for friends vs. family!*