

Friendship Deeds, From A-Z



Quit The Cliques!

Romans 15:7

“Christ has accepted you. So accept one another in order to bring praise to God.”

“Red Rover, Red Rover, send Katie right over!” Katie unclasps her hand from her group of teammates, takes a deep breath and runs headfirst and strong across the playground to try to break the grasp of someone’s tight grip on the other team. If she does it, she gets to bring a new friend back to her team. If she can’t, she’s forced to be a part of their team....

Sometimes, trying to make new friends can look a little bit like this game. You may have a perfectly great group of people to “hang” with at school, at church and in your neighborhood. But somehow, without even realizing it, these little groups of clasped handed “teams” can form and begin to compete against one another. THEN, a new kid on the block shows up and tries to figure out how to break through to one, then the other...ok, whichever group will let him or her hold hands first.

It’s perfectly ok to have close friends....Jesus did with His disciples. BUT...it’s not ok to make someone feel left out or not part of your “clique” because they look or act different OR just because you’re comfortable doing what you’ve always done. When it comes to groups of play in public, as Christians, we are to be welcoming and accepting. This brings praise to God. Colossians 4:5 says, *“Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders. Make the most of every opportunity.”* That is pretty clear.

The game of “Red Rover” is over now. Which team won? Was there actually separate teams to begin with? All that is seen now is one long row of kids holding hands and cheering! No one is across the playground opposing them. They are one united and strong team that can’t remember enjoying anything more than standing together. That’s the picture of a strong church made up of believers who all praise God as one.

So quit the cliques lickety-split! Enjoy your closest friends when you can, but not when it will leave others out. Be wise and make the most of the opportunities God gives you for accepting another person. You never know, you might just make a new friend!

Discuss the following questions with your parent/s:

- 1. Read James 2. Why should you “treat everyone the same”?**
- 2. What if you “accept” someone who begins to treat you badly or get you into trouble? How are you supposed to treat people who aren’t nice?**
- 3. Why do you think it is difficult to make a new friend? Have you ever felt left out of a group? Have you ever left someone out of your group?**

“R” can’t resist having fun, but sometimes he has to do it on the run!!!!