

Friendship Deeds, From A-Z



**RESIST and RUN from evil fun!**

Exodus 23:2a

*“Do not follow the crowd when they do what is wrong.”*

Remember the last time you had a mosquito or chigger bite? Maybe even poison ivy or the chicken pox? Did you want to itch it SOOOO badly? Your mom or dad would say, “Don’t scratch it, you’ll make it bleed, and it might leave a scar.” You’re able to hold off for a bit, but all of a sudden, it just happens. You can’t stand it anymore, and you just scratch. And itch. And scratch. And ITCH! “Ohhhh, that feels so goooooood,” you think. All of a sudden, you break a bump or two open, and YUCK! While your mom is cleaning up the mess for you, you ask her, “Mom, is it going to leave a scar?” She says, “I don’t know, sweetie, we’ll just have to wait and see...”

That’s how it is with sin, dear one. It may seem fun at the time and even feel good to do, but sooner or later, you will feel the results of the choices you’ve made. Even if every other kid or friend you know is doing something wrong that seems fun, the Bible is giving you the advice to run from it. 2 Timothy 2:22 puts it this way:

*“Run away from the evil things that young people long for. Try hard to do what is right.”*

Imagine yourself in the middle of a situation where your friend or peers want to do something fun that is wrong. Maybe it’s a tv show that you’re not allowed to watch. Or maybe they begin to make fun of another child or tell jokes that have bad word choices in them. Now FREEZE! What if you could hop on an air balloon that would take you above the crowd and show you all the different choices you could make other than that one? Oh, look, over there are some kids playing basketball. Over there is a fun game of checkers. And how neat is that...that group is acting out a play. You figure out which one looks like the best choice for you, and you land there in your air balloon.

Pray each day that the Lord will help you with the temptations you face. You see, even if you are the only one making the right choice, the Lord will always give you a way out when you’re tempted. 1 Corinthians 10:13b says, *“God is faithful. He will not let you be tempted any more than you can take. But when you are tempted, God will give you a way out so that you can stand up under it.”* When you resist and run from evil fun with God’s help along the way, hopefully, your friends will follow....if not, maybe you’ll make some new friends!

Discuss the following questions with your parent/s:

1. Can you think of a time when you followed a friend into sin? Did anything happen as a result? Are you ever the one leading others to do the wrong thing?
2. Do you think you could recognize right or wrong if it were right in front of you? Discuss good and poor choices with your parent. Ask the Lord to teach you, too.

*While “R” is running, he gets stuck. Will “S” help out, or is “R” out of luck?*