



Friendship Deeds, From A-Z

Stick With Them Through Thick And Thin!

Proverbs 17:17

"A friend loves at all times. He or She is there to help when trouble comes."

You're up at the crack of dawn. You've made your bed and bounced your quarter on it. Your camouflage is wrinkle-free and buttoned up. You're ready for inspection. The sergeant comes in and passes you with flying khaki colors. You're one of the best soldiers in the army. A loud alarm goes off and you grab your gear and weapon in a hustle like every other soldier is doing. This isn't training—it's the real thing. As you go into battle, you look around at your fellow soldiers and wonder if each of them is prepared to give his or her life. While confidence in them begins to set in, fear and courage are having a battle of its own inside your mind.

What a thought, eh? While it's difficult to imagine this situation, the truth is that we as Christians are in a battle of our own. It's the conflict between good and evil each day. And every good soldier knows that it's much easier to do battle if you have a faithful soldier by your side. That's what friendship is about. The tricky part is that true friendship takes training. That means working through your differences, finding the good in the other person, and being willing to make changes in yourself in order to keep the peace. It's worth the hard work, not just because you can be there to help each other when problems come, but also because it makes life a lot more fun to live!



Ecclesiastes 4:9 says, **"Two people are better than one. They can help each other in everything they do."** This is true with friends, and this is true with family members. All of this training is called "building your friendship muscle," and Jesus is the strongest example of them all:

"No one has greater love than the One who gives His life for His friends." (John 15:13)

SO—you're up at the crack of dawn. You've made your bed and knelt beside it. You've just thanked Jesus for being the Best Friend of all, and now you're praying for strength, help and fun in this day to come. As you go into "battle," you look around and wonder who will join forces with you. Oh look, there's your family! And there are your good friends! With God's help, you'll stick with each other through thick and thin, ready to help when trouble comes, having fun along the way!

Discuss the following questions with your parent/s:

1. Think about your closest friends. How have they "stuck with you" in the past? How have you stood beside them?
2. Do you work hard to build your friendships, or do you expect it to be easy?



3. Ask your parent/s if they notice any qualities in you that need some extra training when it comes to building your friendship muscle.

“T” is chanting a spirited cheer. You’ll appreciate her words, so get ready to hear!