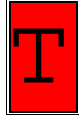


Friendship Deeds, From A-Z



Take Time For A Thank-You Rhyme!

Philippians 1:3

"I thank my God every time I remember you."

"2! 4! 6! 8! Who do we appreciate? Paul! Paul! Paul!" The Philippian crowd is roaring this thank you rhyme through the streets, carrying the apostle Paul high above their shoulders. After all, he brought them the Good News of the gospel. He even risked his life to be a missionary to them.

Hold on a minute! Rewind! The Scripture in Philippians 1:3 was written by Paul himself. He was thanking God for *them*—the Philippian people. Isn't it amazing that he would take the time to do that when he had so much to do himself?

Obviously, it is important to take the time to thank God for your friends and your family. After all, God has blessed you with these people to make your life richer and more enjoyable, right? Your friends play with you, imagine with you, help you remember your homework assignments, encourage you when you're blue, and on and on.

After you take the time to thank God for the people you love, why not tell them how thankful you are for their friendship. If you take the time to notice, you will see the many nice things they do for you. And you can simply say, "Thank you for (blank)."

Oddly enough, there's another way to tell your friends you appreciate them—by showing them! When you play with his or her toys, you could help clean them up before you leave as a thankful gesture. When you receive a gift or a kind deed, you can write a note of gratitude. Even just a small hug or pat on the back can let a person know how much their friendship means to you.

"2! 4! 6! 8! Who do YOU appreciate!?!?" STOP!!!!!! Take time from the rhyme to go thank a friend. You'll be glad you did, and your friend will, too!

Discuss the following questions with your parent/s:

1. Why did Paul take the time to thank God for the Philippian people? Why do you think he was thankful for them?
2. What friends has God given you to thank Him for? How have they made your life better? Take 5 minutes to think about this and make a list.
3. Do you have any friends who help you be a better Christian?

4. What are some ways to SHOW thankfulness?

“T” uses his mouth a lot, but “U” uses her ear. So listen up next time—IF you want to hear.