

Friendship Deeds, From A-Z

Value Others Very Often

James 2:8

“The royal law is found in Scripture. It says, ‘Love your neighbor as you love yourself.’—(Leviticus 19:18) If you really keep that law, you are doing what is right.”

The curtain has just opened, and you are about to watch the third sequel of your favorite play: *The Pirate of the South Pacific, III*. The famous character from the first two stories comes out and begins to attack all the corrupt and evil enemies who have taken over a vast part of the Pacific Ocean. He’s a one-man show! All of a sudden, something happens in this play that didn’t happen in the first two, or in any other play you had seen in your life either. The popular pirate picks up a microphone and says, “*The leading role in the Pirate of the South Pacific will now be played by my understudy, Pirate #2.*” You and the rest of the audience gasp and then applaud as Pirate #1 watches the new lead take the spotlight. Can you imagine such a thing?

What do you do when the spotlight is on you? Maybe you’re someone who enjoys being the center of attention or maybe you’re not, but if you DO, listen to letter “V”’s voice. When we value other people the Jesus way, then we don’t try to play the main role all the time. This means that if you’re used to being the “lead” friend—the one who determines which game you and your friends play, the one who usually chooses which movie you watch, the one who tells everyone else how to do something or the one doing most of the talking in a conversation—if this describes you, then it’s time to consider living out the verse above.

When Pirate #2 came out on the stage, do you think he played the role exactly the same way that Pirate #1 did? Of course not! The same will apply as you encourage your friends to make choices and decisions with the special personality that God has given them. Ask the Lord to help you love your friend as much as you love yourself. As you pray, He will help you obey, as well as bless your friendships along the way. You may even discover that being a one-man show wasn’t as much fun as you thought it was... So make a graceful exit from the spotlight today!

Discuss the following questions with your parent/s:

- 1. Are you often the center of attention in your friendships and with your peers, or are you more often in the background letting others take the lead?**
- 2. How does it make you feel when you are in the spotlight?**
- 3. How does it make you feel when others are in the spotlight?**
- 4. What are some ways you show love to yourself? Write them down. Now how can you take those and apply them to loving others?**

When letter “V” is no longer a chore, letter “W” will challenge your character some more...