



WEEK FOUR

1 THESSALONIANS 5:11
JOB 2:11-13

Encourage One Another

SAY THIS

Friends encourage
one another.

DO THIS



MORNING TIME

When you first see your child in the morning tell them, "Rise and shine! Today is a great day to be a great friend!"

REMEMBER THIS

"A friend loves at all times. They are there to help when trouble comes."
Proverbs 17:17, NIV

LIFE APP

FRIENDSHIP – Using your words and actions to show others you care

PRACTICING FRIENDSHIP

by Karen Wilson

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We can learn a lot about friendship from our kids, especially when they are young. I'm always amazed at how easily kids can make friends on the playground, at the ballpark, or in line at the grocery store. But knowing how to be a good friend over time is not always intuitive.

One afternoon, my daughter Sara came in as dramatic as any eight-year-old would . . . upset that no one seemed to want to be her friend. After comforting her, I pointed out that it's not always easy to know how to be a good friend and that maybe she could practice becoming a better one. I proceeded to share some pretty solid advice with her, so I thought, but it seemed to fall on deaf ears, lost in a sea of tears and self-pity. But a couple of days later, Sara flew in the house—ecstatic. She said, "Mommy, it's working! I'm practicing how to be a good friend, and it's working!"

There's no greater joy than helping your children grow in areas where they might flounder on their own. Our kids are trying to figure out how to do this complicated thing called life, and we have an incredible opportunity as parents to help them navigate it just a little bit better.

As your child begins to experience the ups and downs of friendship, remind them of some of the principles they are learning this month about how to be a good friend by reflecting God's character:

1. Friends love one another. Loving our friends often means putting aside what we want to give our friends what they need.

2. Friends accept one another. Regardless of how people dress, what they look like, what they own, or are able to do, we can show them how much God loves them with our friendship.

3. Friends forgive one another. Our friends will do things that hurt us, but we need to be willing to forgive them because God forgave us first.

4. Friends encourage one another. Use words that build up and cheer up, and be a shoulder to lean on when things get hard.

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