

Character Quest...Friendship

Here's the situation: you have promised your best friend that you will spend Friday night helping him watch his little brother. Another friend calls and invites you to attend a concert featuring your favorite Christian band. What are you going to do? Give yourself 10 points on the Loyalty Meter if you said you were going to stick with your best friend; give yourself 5 points if you had to think about it more than a minute; and 0 points if you decide to go to the concert.

Friendship is all about loyalty. It is about sticking with your friends and family no matter what. In fact, the Bible tells us that the greatest evidence of a genuine friendship is loyalty—loving at all times. (Take a look at I Corinthians 13:7.) So what does it mean to be a loyal friend? It means sticking by your friend when she is having a tough time at home. It means helping your friend with his math homework when you would rather be out riding your bike. It means standing by your friend when everyone else has disappeared.

Jonathan and David shared that kind of friendship. You can read about it I Samuel 20. Jonathan knew that his father, King Saul, was out to get David. He knew that being David's friend was against his father's wishes. But David and Jonathan did everything he could to help and support David. Later, David returned that loyalty when he took care of Jonathan's son Mephibosheth. That's the kind of loyal friends that God wants us to be.

Did you know that horses have a great ability to work together? When they are yoked together into teams, they can pull an astonishing amount of weight! Teams of horses once did most of the work that heavy machinery does today. The power of car and truck engines is still measured in horsepower. When horses pull together, they have great strength.

Hebrews 10:24 tells us to spur each other on. That means we can encourage our friends and help each other to do what is good. A good team of horses is connected and moves together. That is why it is so important when you are picking your friends to choose those that have the same Godly values and character traits that you have. Choose friends wisely!



**“ A friend is always loyal,
and a brother is born to help
in time of need.”
Proverbs 17:17**

