This is for you,

Karsten Luke Piper,

once the little boy crying for friends,
now a man who knows the Friend who will never leave you nor forsake you.
May you grow ever more close to him and he ever more dear to you. –NP

To Noah and Nathan, with love. –GS

Also by Noël Piper:
Most of All, Jesus Loves You!
Do you want a friend?

Noël Piper
Illustrated by Gail Schoonmaker
One time there was a little boy. His family moved to a new place. He didn’t know anyone in the houses nearby. That made him feel lonely.

So he sat on the front steps and cried out, “Friends! Frie-e-e-ends!” He wanted a friend.
Before long he found some friends. Some of them were young. Some of them were old. And some were in between.
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Do you want a friend too?
Do you want a friend who loves you?
[Nothing] will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38–39
Do you want a friend who **comforts** you when you are sad or sick?
Through Christ we share abundantly in comfort.

2 Corinthians 1:5
Do you want a friend who helps you be strong?
Do you want a friend who helps you be Strong?

I can do all things through him [Jesus, the Lord] who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13
Do you want a friend who wants to be with you?
I will never leave you nor forsake you.

Hebrews 13:5
Do you want a friend who helps you know God?
Do you want a friend who helps you know God?

I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

John 15:15
Do you want a friend who **prays** for you?
Jesus . . . lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, . . . “I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours.” John 17:1, 9
Do you want a friend who makes you **happy**?
[Jesus said,] “These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.” John 15:11
Do you want a friend who forgives you when you do something wrong?

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace. Ephesians 1:7
Do you want a friend who helps you do **good**?
We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:10
Do you want a friend who will save you from danger?
Do you want a friend who will save you from danger?

You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.

Matthew 1:21
Maybe you have a lot of friends. But can any of them do ALL these things ALL the time? No. Jesus is the only friend who is everything we need. There is no friend like Jesus.
May the God of peace . . . equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

Hebrews 13:20–21
But we do so many bad things. How can we have a friend who is so good? How can Jesus be our friend? The answer is that Jesus died for sinners. Then he rose from the dead. Jesus can be a great friend because he is a great Savior.

Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13
Jesus is the **best friend** of all!

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16
One There Is, Above All Others

John Newton

Anton Peter Berggreen

One there is, above all others, Well deserves the name of Friend; His is love beyond a brother's, Costly, free, and knows no end. They who once His kindness prove Find it everlasting love.

2. Which of all our friends to save us, Could or would have shed their blood? But our Jesus died to have us Reconciled, in Him to God: This was boundless love indeed! Jesus is a Friend in need.

3. When He lived on earth abaséd, Friend of sinners was His name; Now, above all glory raised, He rejoices in the same: Still He calls them brethren, friends, And to all their wants attends.

2. O for grace our hearts to soften! Teach us, Lord, at length to love; We, alas! forget too often, What a Friend we have above: But when home our souls are brought, We will love Thee as we ought.
Additional resources from Noël and her husband John— including many free downloads of books, articles, and audio—may be found at www.desiringGOD.org.
Desiring God Ministries—1-888-346-4700 (toll-free)