

S.A.F.E. Homes



“And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.” Ecclesiastes 4: 12

Stronger Together

When thinking about friendship, it is more than just for social reasons: someone to hang out with, eat with, or talk to. It is simply true that there is strength in numbers. The wise King Solomon put it this way: **“Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up,” (Eccl. 4: 9 – 10).**


A story was once told of three travellers trudging through a mountain pass together. The weather was bitter cold and it began to snow. One man slipped and fell on an icy patch of rock, breaking his leg. He could no longer walk with the others and urged them to go on. Knowing that if they didn't reach the village by nightfall they would probably all die, one man decided to continue alone, believing it to be his only hope. The other traveler refused to abandon his friend. Wrapping him in a blanket he dragged him slowly and with great difficulty along the path. Soon darkness closed in and made it much too dangerous to keep going. Lying down beside his friend and wrapping them both as tightly as possible in the blanket against the cold, they rested until dawn, at which time they continued their arduous journey. Just as the village came into view, the man pulling his friend stumbled over a mound in the path and nearly fell. As he looked closer, to his horror, he realized it was their friend who had chosen to go on alone. Unable to reach the village before nightfall, he was no match for the freezing temperatures. If he had just stayed with his friends, the shared body warmth would have sustained him.

The Psalmist talked about togetherness this way, **“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity,” (Psalm 133: 1).** How much brighter the light shines as God's people stand together to proclaim the glorious gospel of Acts 2:38 salvation!

Family Prayer: Dear Jesus, thank You so much for giving Your life for me and for being an example of love and servanthood. Help me to love like You love. In Jesus' Name. Amen.



Includes
Family
Activities



Want more?
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Bonus Pages

Looking



Inward

Just for fun, let each family member find a small stick (or something similar) which is easily broken alone. Let everyone place their stick in a pile, then bundle them together with twine. Can you see the difference? How much harder is it to break when all the sticks are together? Let this be a visual reminder of how important our friendships are.

Let's talk

What does it take to maintain a good friendship? Discuss some characteristics which are needed in a godly, Christ-centered relationship. Are you that kind of friend?

Ask God to help you to be sensitive this week to someone who might be struggling alone. Although you may never become best friends with this person, your love may change their life in a way you would never expect.

Looking



Outward

Additional Challenges

The Bible has plenty to say about friendship. Let's check out some of these references.

(Proverbs 22: 24 - 25) "Make no friendship with an _____ man; and with a _____ man thou shalt not go: Lest thou _____ his ways, and get a snare to thy soul. "

(Proverbs 27: 9) "Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: so doth the _____ of a man's friend by hearty _____."

(Proverbs 27: 6) " _____ are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are _____."

(Proverbs 27: 17) "Iron _____ iron; so a man _____ the countenance of his friend."

(Proverbs 18: 24) "A man that hath friends must shew himself _____: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a _____."

(Proverbs 16: 28) "A froward man soweth _____: and a _____ separateth chief friends."

(Proverbs 17: 17) "A friend _____ at _____ times, and a brother is born for adversity."

(Proverbs 17: 9) "He that _____ a transgression seeketh _____ but he that _____ a matter _____ very friends."

(John 15: 13) " _____ love hath no man than this, that a man _____ his _____ for his friends."

***It's not only important that you have godly friends,
but you also need to be a godly friend!***

Puzzle Page

F A F M N K E N T U S O C N O
B R M E T R H I O T H C L D E
L N I Z L P D A G R S C B U C
A J O E R L M G E B D O N T U
I T D X N D O P T C O E U L T
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S I W T A T W H R Y T I N U W
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DWELL
GOOD
LABOUR
REWARD
STONGER

FELLOW
GOSPEL
PLEASANT
SOCIAL
TOGETHER

FRIENDSHIPS
HELP
PROCLAIM
STAND
UNITY

*Greater love has no man than this,
that a man lay down his life for his
friends. ~ John 15:13*

