

## The Friend

During my life I have had very few best friends. There have been some sad times when a friend moved far away and slack times when I had no best friend at all. Not having a friend can make things pretty lonely and boring. I have come to realize that when I'm going through a period without any friend in my life I can't really force the situation and try to rush out and find a new friend. Yes, I can try to be friendly and open to any new friend that God brings into my life, but I can't really run an advertisement in the newspaper that I'm taking applications for a new friend. Friendship is something that just seems to happen. One day I will meet someone and we will have interests in common and then over time we will interact and become friends.

I am reminded of the man whose friends lowered him down through a roof one day. The day probably started out with joking and laughing and everyone full of hope as they carried him to see a man they thought could heal their friend. What a wonderful day it would turn out to be because when Jesus finally saw the man He called him Friend. The man who was paralyzed now was surrounded by his old friends and his new friend: Jesus. He walked home that day having a new friend and having God's forgiveness. That is what I call a great day!

I need to remember that I am Jesus' friend and He is mine. Even if I'm going through a season when I don't have an earthly friend in my life, I have a Heavenly Friend who can comfort me, encourage me and forgive me when I fail.

LK 5:18-20 Some men came carrying a paralytic on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus. When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven."

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