Welcome Words

Let everything be said and done in the name of the Lord Jesus,

giving thanks to God through Jesus Christ.















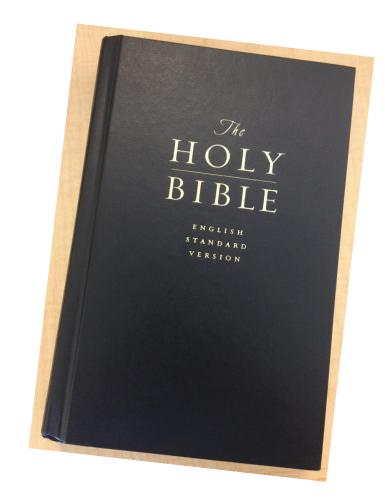


School Value....



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Friendship



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'You can trust a friend who corrects you' (Proverbs 27:6).

'I speak to you as my friends' (John 15:15).

You are better off having a friend than being all alone... If you fall, your friend can help you up. But if you fall without having a friend nearby, you are really in trouble' (Ecclesiastes



What are the qualities of a good friend?

How do we make friends?

Why do we need friends?

How can we be a good friend?

How do we keep our friends?

I need two volunteers who are friends.

I have two jobs for you.

Job 1.

Friend 1.

Friend 1. Would you like to eat some chocolate?



Friend 2 - would you like to join your friend and help eat the chocolate?



Job 2.

Friend 1.

Friend 1.
The toilets need cleaning.

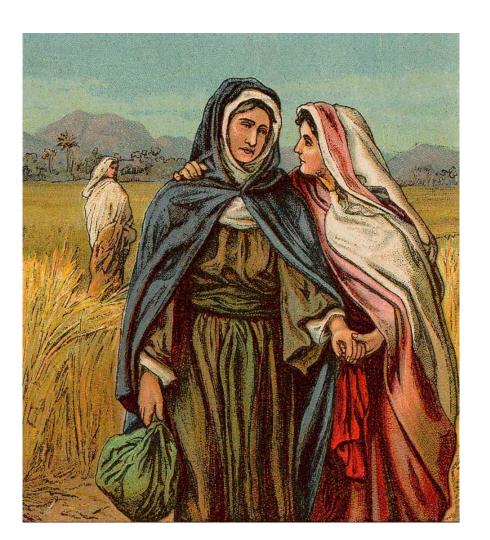


Friend 2.
The toilets need cleaning.
Would you like to help your friend clean the toilets?



Sometime we go through the nice times in life - like eating chocolate. There are birthday parties, holidays and treats to share with our friends. But there are also the toilet brush times- the really sad times or the really difficult times that we don't want to go through but we must.

One way that God helps us through these bad times is by giving us friends to stick with us even through the worst times..



Naomi and Ruth

Naomi's husband had died, a long time ago.

Naomi was delighted when her son married a girl from another country called Ruth.

The two women were great friends and loved sharing a house together.

But then a very sad thing happened: Ruth's husband – Naomi's son – died. And Ruth and Naomi were all on their own.

They were both very sad, but they looked after each other.

Naomi had come from Bethlehem years before, so all her family were in Bethlehem, many miles away.

She pointed towards Bethlehem and told Ruth that now her son was dead, she was going back home.

Now Ruth could have stayed with her old family in that country where they were, but she and Naomi were great friends by now, and she couldn't bear to think of old Naomi making the long journey to Bethlehem all on her own.

'I'll come with you!' she said.

- 'No no, you stay here with your own people. You'll be a foreigner in Bethlehem,' said old Naomi.
- But Ruth wouldn't listen. She knew what a friend had to do. She packed her things, said goodbye to her family and set off on the long journey with Naomi.

While they were in Bethlehem, Ruth fell in love with a handsome rich man called Boaz, and they got married.

Naomi was delighted all over again, that her dear friend Ruth had another chance to have a family. And indeed Ruth and Boaz did have a baby!

And if you look at Ruth's family tree, you'll see that the baby grew up and got married and had a baby, and that baby grew up and got married and had a baby... and so on until in the end, another baby was born in Bethlehem... to another girl who was a long way from home... in a stable... I wonder who that baby was?

So our friends are people who stick with us in good times and in bad times, and we should never take them for granted.

In a minute I'm going to ask you to look around your classroom and look on the big screen. Can you see if there are any of your friends here today? If there are any in your classroom, can you wave to them and say, 'Thank you for being my friend!'

Now let's finish with a prayer to a friend who is always with us, even in the toilet brush times of life.

Dear Jesus, thank you for being my friend. Thank you that you laugh with us when we're happy and that you cry with us when we're sad. Please help us to be true friends to other people even if it means giving up our own comfort, just like Ruth did for Naomi. Amen.

Closing Words

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning is now and shall be forever

Amen.