



Keepsake Correspondence Series
THE FRIENDSHIP LETTERS

“Dear Faith”

Keepsake Correspondence Series

THE FRIENDSHIP LETTERS

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“Dear Faith” Keepsake Correspondence Series
The Friendship Letters

Soli Deo Gloria

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Correspondence Instructions - The Friendship Letters

Letters from Faith: Each letter from Faith in this volume of the Correspondence Series will address a different problem children usually encounter with friendship. Use them all or pick and choose specific ones. Depending on the age of your child, make it fun how they receive their letter. Some ideas could be sticking it into the daily mail in your mailbox, sticking it on a pillow before bedtime, at their seat at the table, etc. All you need is an envelope that you can address to your child (blank mailing labels included). Write in your child's name at the top and have them read through the letter; discuss it with them, adding your own thoughts, stories, encouragements, etc. Each friendship topic in the "Friendship Problems" section has two letters from Faith: **one that introduces the worry and one that tells what she's learning about it.** Each topic in the "Friendship Advice" section has only one letter.

Prayer Pages/Verses: With each letter there is a prayer page included. Each letter has a prayer and a Bible verse your child can use to remember how to handle each friendship problem. The prayer is already written on the page, but the verse can be written on it by your child. Prayer pages can be kept in a binder, maybe near your child's bed, for easy access any time they need it.

Letters to Faith: Since "correspondence" is a word for when you write letters back and forth with someone, each letter from Faith comes with a blank letter for your child to write something back to Faith. They can respond to one or both letters (just print another copy as needed). They can tell her how they are doing with their friendship struggle, describe how her advice has helped them, or even share some advice themselves. Mailing labels and "stamps" are also included for your child to cut out and tape on an envelope, if desired.

Theme Verse: Each friendship topic has its own specific verse accompanying it; one that speaks more directly to that particular issue. However, there is one verse that is included on each prayer page. It's **Matthew 7:12: "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets."** This can be considered the theme verse because it covers each and every friendship problem we could ever come up with.

"My Book of Friendship" Binder: As your child works through the series, gather each letter and prayer page into a binder so that they can access the letters, prayers, and verses any time they need reminders on handling the problems that arise with friendship. **A cover page for the binder is included at the back of this download.**

Do you ever have problems with friends?

Friendship is one of the greatest gifts God has given us to enjoy on this earth, but it also can come with a lot of problems and sadness. That's because you and your friends...or the people you want to be friends with...are all sinners. If we were all perfect, then we'd all be perfect friends and there would never be any problems. That's a bit sad to hear, isn't it? But there is good news too. The Bible actually has a lot to say about friendship that can help us to deal with the problems of friendship and also how we can be the kind of friend God would want us to be.

Maybe there are times you don't feel like talking about your friendship problems. But guess what? We all have problems with friends sometimes, so there's no reason to try and hide it! In fact, God wants to know about each and every one of your problems because with His help, we can get through them. Prayer and God's Word are the perfect tools for doing just that!

Faith is a kid just like you. And just like you, she faces problems with friends. But she's learning to use God's Word more and more for her problems. That's why her parents named her "Faith". Every time she has a new problem with a friend, she learns what the Bible has to say about it and prays for God's help. When we learn God's Word and how to trust in Him, our faith grows bigger and bigger...and our problems feel smaller and smaller!

Each time Faith writes to you about one of her friendship problems, write a letter back to Faith telling her about your struggle with friends and how God is helping you to trust in Him through them. Write the date on top, fill the middle with your message, & write your name on the bottom.

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Unkind Words
Psalm 19:14

Dear

Have you ever been hurt by the words of a friend? Or, have you ever said something to a friend that you know was unkind, but you said it anyway? I've done that before. I think that it's going to feel so good to get those words out, but then I say them and, well, I don't always feel that good after all.

Last week my cousin and I were at the zoo, and we were eating our lunch before heading over to see the dolphin show. I had baked cookies the day before, and I had a few packed in my lunch. She asked if she could have one of my cookies. I said "yes", and she took one. A minute later she reached over and took another one. I said, "Hey, I want to have some of my cookies." And then she threw it back in the bag and said, "Fine. I forgot you don't know how to share." I got so mad that I said back to her, "Well at least they taste better than anything you'd ever be able to bake." My cousin just got quiet after that. If I'm being honest, the rest of the day at the zoo wasn't very fun at all. My cousin seemed hurt, and I was upset by what she said to me and what I said in return. Has a friend ever been unkind like that to you?

Write me back!

Faith

Dear

In my last letter I told you about a time that I got angry at my cousin and said something unkind to her. I already wasn't feeling very good for what I said, but then I read **Psalms 19:14:**

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer."

Do you see why I felt even worse after that? This psalm is a prayer asking that the words that come out of our mouth would please God. And on top of that, it says that the "meditation of my heart" should be acceptable to God too. That means that the feelings inside of me matter too. I thought that as long as I stopped the unkind words from coming out of my mouth that I was fine, but it turns out that's completely wrong. God cares just as much about what's inside our hearts as He does about what comes out of our mouths. What comes out of our mouth shows what's inside our hearts. Even if the words don't come out, the ugliness is still be inside of our hearts.

What I said to my cousin was unkind. If someone had said that to me, I would have been hurt. I know I should not have said it. But now I see that even if I hadn't said the words, the attitude of my heart wouldn't have made me a good friend either - and wouldn't have made God happy.

I want this psalm to be my prayer too. I don't want to hurt my friends with my words. And I want to please God with the things I say and with the attitudes in my heart. Having unkind words spoken to me makes me feel terrible, and I know that, so I do not want to speak unkind words to others. If you've ever been hurt by the unkind words of someone else, then remember how it feels. Let that memory help you to never forget how much you can hurt someone by the things you say. Have you ever squeezed too much toothpaste out of the tube? You can't put it back inside. Once it's out, it's out. Our words are like that. After you say unkind words, you can't just put them back. I'm going to make sure I apologize to my cousin the next time I see her.

"God,

May the words that come out of my mouth and the attitudes inside my heart be pleasing to You.

Forgive me for any hurt my words have caused other people. Amen."

Talk to you soon!

Faith

Prayer Page

This is my friendship problem:
UnKind Words.

"God,

May the words that come out of my mouth and the attitudes inside my heart be pleasing to You. Forgive me for any hurt my words have caused other people. Amen."

Psalm 19:14 -

So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you,
for this sums up the Law and the Prophets. - Matthew 7:12

Also Included:

Dear Faith,

Talk to you soon.

Blank Letter for Writing to Faith

My Book of FRIENDSHIP

And What God Has to Say
About It

name _____

"My Book of Friendship" Cover for Keepsake Binder

Address Labels for Letters to Faith
(from your child)

Faith Walker
777 Spirit Lane
Trinity, U.S.A.

Faith Walker
777 Spirit Lane
Trinity, U.S.A.

Faith Walker
777 Spirit Lane
Trinity, U.S.A.

Faith Walker
777 Spirit Lane
Trinity, U.S.A.

Faith Walker
777 Spirit Lane
Trinity, U.S.A.

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777 Spirit Lane
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Faith Walker
777 Spirit Lane
Trinity, U.S.A.

Stamps for Letter Envelopes
(For Letters from Faith and from your child)



Printable Mailing Labels & Stamps

My Book of FRIENDSHIP Quick Sheet

Use this quick reference sheet to quickly access each Bible verse Faith has written to you about.

- Friendship Problems:**
Sharing - Hebrews 13:16: "And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."
Unkind Words - Psalm 19:14: "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer."
Being Ignored - Hebrews 12:3: "Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."
Bullying - Proverbs 17:17: "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity."
Rejection - Isaiah 53:3: "He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem."
Being Excluded - Isaiah 53:3: "He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem."
Manipulation - Romans 16:18: "For such people are not serving our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people."
Jealousy - Proverbs 14:30: "A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones."
Gossip - Ephesians 4:29: "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."
Shyness - Deuteronomy 31:6: "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."
Embarrassment - Hebrews 13:6: "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."
Proverbs 17:22a: "A cheerful heart is good medicine."
Forgiveness - Colossians 3:13: "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."
Peer Pressure - 2 Timothy 1:7: "For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline."
Confidence - Psalm 139:13-14: "For you created my inward being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well."
Unbelieving Friends - 1 John 2:5-6: "But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did."

Worry & Bible Verse Quick Sheet