

# Compassion



Article 38 – Every child has the right to be protected and cared for in countries affected by war

# Friendship

What does friendship  
mean to you?

## **This story from the bible, Luke 5.17-25, depicts the actions of 4 friends.**

There were once four men who regularly helped and took care of their friend who had been paralysed and unable to walk for many years. They had heard about a man called Jesus who was able to make blind people see, deaf people hear, cure lepers and even raise people from the dead. These men loved their friend and felt convinced that he too could be cured. When they heard that Jesus was teaching nearby, they were determined to find him. They carried their paralysed friend on a mat, secured with ropes, one at each corner, to a house in Capernaum where Jesus was teaching the people about God. There was a huge crowd crammed into the building, listening and hoping to witness some of the miracles for which he was becoming famous. The four friends could get nowhere near. They were very disappointed but were determined to reach Jesus. One of them had a daring idea. In those days most houses had a flat roof that was reached by an outside staircase. The roof was covered with a thick coating of mud on a layer of reeds, so once they were up on the roof, they were able to scrape this away and make a large hole big enough to lower their paralysed friend down, in front of Jesus' feet.

Jesus was very moved by the trouble that the four men had taken and knew that they had complete faith in his ability to heal their friend. So he said, 'My friend, your sins are forgiven. Pick up your bed and walk.' The crowd watched in amazement; some of them had known how ill the man had been. They watched as the feeling came back into the man's once useless feet and legs, and then he slowly began to get up. He stood up straight, picked up his mat and walked away, thanking Jesus and praising God. Some of Jesus' enemies who saw what had happened were angry. Jesus knew this but he had wanted to demonstrate that his power to heal was a visible sign that he was indeed the Son of God. It was the loyalty of the friends and the faith that they had in him that encouraged Jesus to perform this miracle.



Think about the story you have just heard.

Were there good friends in it?

Think about your friends.

What make a good friend?

Think about yourself.

Are you a good friend?



# How can you show compassion to your friends in class this week and beyond?



Dear God,

We thank you for our friends and for the happy times we share with them.

Help us to be a good friends to them.

Teach us how to play fairly and to share.

Help us to recognise loneliness in others and show friendship towards them.

We know that you are our friend and will be with us always.

Amen



Brother, sister, let me serve you,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey,  
and companions on the road;  
we are here to help each other  
walk the mile and bear the load.





I will hold the Christ-light for you  
in the night-time of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you,  
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping;  
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;  
I will share your joy and sorrow  
till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven,  
we shall find such harmony,  
born of all we've known together  
of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, sister, let me serve you,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant, too.

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