

COTTONWOOD KIDS

ELEMENTARY

LESSON & ACTIVITIES

SEPTEMBER - WEEK 2

20
20

SEPTEMBER WEEK 2

BIBLE STORY OVERVIEW

BIBLE STORY

We're Going to Be Friends
David and Jonathan
1 Samuel 20

BOTTOM LINE:

Friends love one another.

MEMORY VERSE

A friend loves at all times.
They are there to help when trouble comes.
Proverbs 17:17, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Friendship

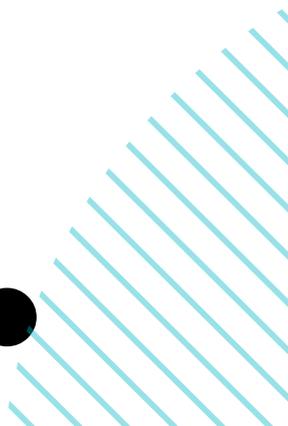
Using your words and actions to show others you
care

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

This Month's Theme:

friendship.





BIBLE STORY

We're continuing to talk about friendship by looking at two of the best friends in all of the Bible. Some pretty wild things happened to these two guys. Let's see if they were able to STAY friends through all those ups and downs.

We start our story in the book of 1 Samuel. We see that God had given His people, the Israelites, a bunch of different judges and prophets to be their leaders. These judges and prophets listened to God and shared His words with the people.

But what did the Israelite people think about the judges and prophets? They wished they had a king instead.

Even though the Israelites had people in charge who listened to God, it wasn't enough for them. They begged God over and over for a king. God told the prophet Samuel to choose someone for the job.

The first king's name was Saul. Unfortunately, Saul was NOT a great king. But then Samuel chose another young man to be king AFTER Saul, and his name was David. Yes—David—as in David and Goliath. But David didn't become king right away. King Saul was still the ruler of Israel for a long time.

Now, King Saul had a son named Jonathan. Usually, the person next in line in the family was supposed to be the future king. That would have been Jonathan. But remember, God had chosen DAVID to be the next king over Israel.

Meanwhile, King Saul had chosen David to lead his armies into battle. David kept winning battle after battle, and he was becoming very popular with the people. So, King Saul was extremely jealous of David. But what about Jonathan? Did he feel the same way? After all, HE was supposed to be the next king.

How did Jonathan feel about David's popularity? Jonathan was happy for David. HE wasn't jealous, not even in the slightest. Jonathan and David became good friends. In fact, Jonathan wanted to honor David. So he gave David a gift.

Jonathan honored his friend David by giving him his robe, belt, sword, and bow!

King Saul saw how David got more and more popular. This made him MAD! He was so mad that he threw something at David. Saul got so angry at David that he threw a SPEAR at him. Scary, right?

And he didn't stop there. Later, King Saul told Jonathan and all his servants to kill David. But Jonathan was a good friend. He told David to hide while he talked to his dad. King Saul calmed down and promised not to hurt David, but do you think he kept that promise? Nope. AGAIN, King Saul tried to kill David . . . and when THAT didn't work, he sent other men to try.

Whew! Poor David! I'm exhausted just THINKING about how scared he must have been! Well, Jonathan was DETERMINED to protect David. He wasn't going to let anything bad happen to his friend! So he and David came up with a super-detailed plan. I'll give you the quick version.

David was supposed to go to a feast to eat with King Saul. But instead, he told Jonathan that he would go and hide. David planned to hide in a field. He asked Jonathan to make up a story about why he was gone. That way they could find out what King Saul had to say about it. If Saul was like, 'Sure, that's cool,' then that meant David was safe. If Saul got angry, that meant Saul was out to get him.

Jonathan asked David to make him a promise.

Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 20:14-15 (NIRV) and read.

“Always be kind to me, just as the Lord is. Be kind to me as long as I live. Then I won't be killed. And never stop being kind to my family.

Of course, Jonathan would need a way to TELL David what happened at the feast. But instead of going to TALK to David about it, he was going to do something else—kind of like a secret message. What WAS their idea for a secret message?

Jonathan planned to either shoot arrows close or far from where David hid. It would be a secret message to show David if he should stick around . . . or run far, far, away.

Well . . . long story short, things didn't go well at the feast with King Saul. On the second day of the feast, Saul even threw a spear at Jonathan—his own son! Jonathan hurried to the field and shot arrows to send his secret message to David. He shot the arrows far, far away—which was his way of telling David to run far, far, away.

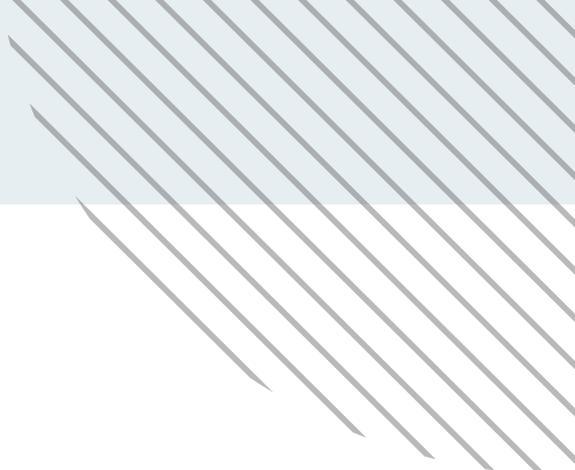
But that wasn't the end. David and Jonathan met up one last time. Last question, what do you think Jonathan said to David? Jonathan told David that their friendship would continue—even though David had to leave. Here's what he said.

Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 20:42 (NIRV) and read.

“Go in peace. In the name of the Lord we've promised to be friends. We have said, 'The Lord is a witness between you and me. He's a witness between your children and my children forever.'

David left . . . and Jonathan went back to the city.

It's pretty amazing when you think about how Jonathan and David stayed friends—even with everything that was going on around them. EVERYONE expected Jonathan to be the next king over Israel. But God chose David instead! I mean, put yourself in Jonathan's shoes. Imagine that you could be one of the most powerful people in the world . . . then some random person comes up and takes that away from you.



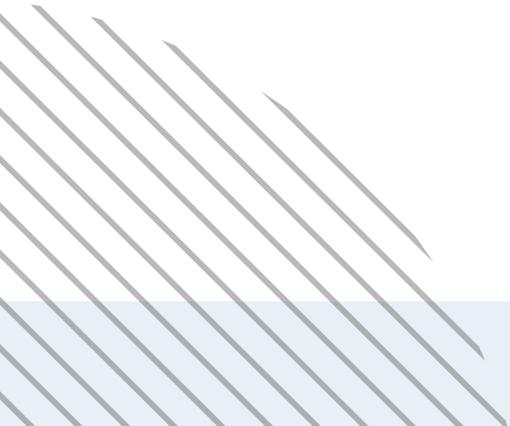
Jonathan could have been mad and refused to be friends with David—but he chose friendship instead. Instead of getting angry, he shared his things with David. Instead of turning against David when his father was angry,

Jonathan kept David safe. Jonathan was a good friend to David. And David kept his promise. He showed kindness to Jonathan's family throughout his life.

That's what friendship looks like. Really, that's what LOVE looks like. It's about loving our friends the way God loves us.

Friends love one another.

Let's pray and ask God to help us show love to our friends



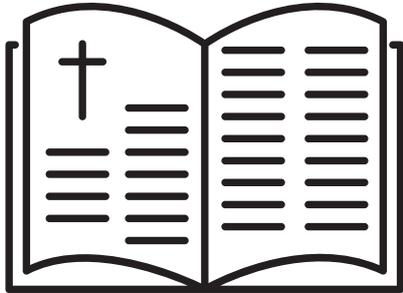
prayer

God, it's so cool to see how David and Jonathan stuck together—even in some pretty crazy situations. Please, help us have strong friendships like they did. Help us be willing to share with each other and defend each other when times get tough. Thank You for loving us so much that You sent Jesus for us. Help us share Your love with our friends every day.

We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

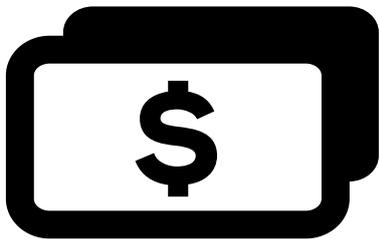


HOW YOUR ELEMENTARY KID CAN STAY CONNECTED



FAITH STARTER KIT

If it is your first time asking Jesus to be your Lord and Savior, we want to celebrate with you! You can go to cottonwood.org/kids and we would love to send you a bible and resources!



BIBLE BUCKS

Your child can earn bible bucks each week by completing challenges or homework



VIDEO LESSONS

Your child can learn bible stories and engage in worship

For more information, follow Cottonwood Kids on facebook and instagram ([cottonwood_kds](https://www.instagram.com/cottonwood_kds))

Friendship means using your words and actions to show others you care.



Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

DAY
1

Stick It To 'Em

We are learning just how important our friends are this month. How can we show our friends that they are important to us? Grab three sticky notes and pencil. Come up with three different ways that you can show your friends they are important to you. Maybe you want to draw a picture for a friend, invite a friend over for cookies, or teach a friend a cool trick you learned. Now that you have these written down, think of the friend you want to these for and write their name on each sticky note, and do it this week.

Ask God to help you as you show your friends that they are important to you!

DAY
3

Take Time

Spending time with a friend and getting to know them is a way to show love to them. This week, spend time with a friend and “interview” them. Find out all their favorite things! Here is a list to get you started: favorite food, favorite animal, favorite color, favorite toy, favorite sport.

Look for ways to **show your friends that they are important to you!**

DAY
2

Love Always!

Ask an adult to help you look up Proverbs 17:17. Find a mirror or a window that you can write this verse on where you can see it every day. What does the verse mean when it says, “at all times?” Does this mean that we love our friends when we are happy? What does it mean when we are sad or upset with our friends? It means we love no matter what, at all times! We love them when things are good and when things are not so good. We would want them to do the same for us.

Know that God wants us to love our friends at all times, **just like He loves us!**

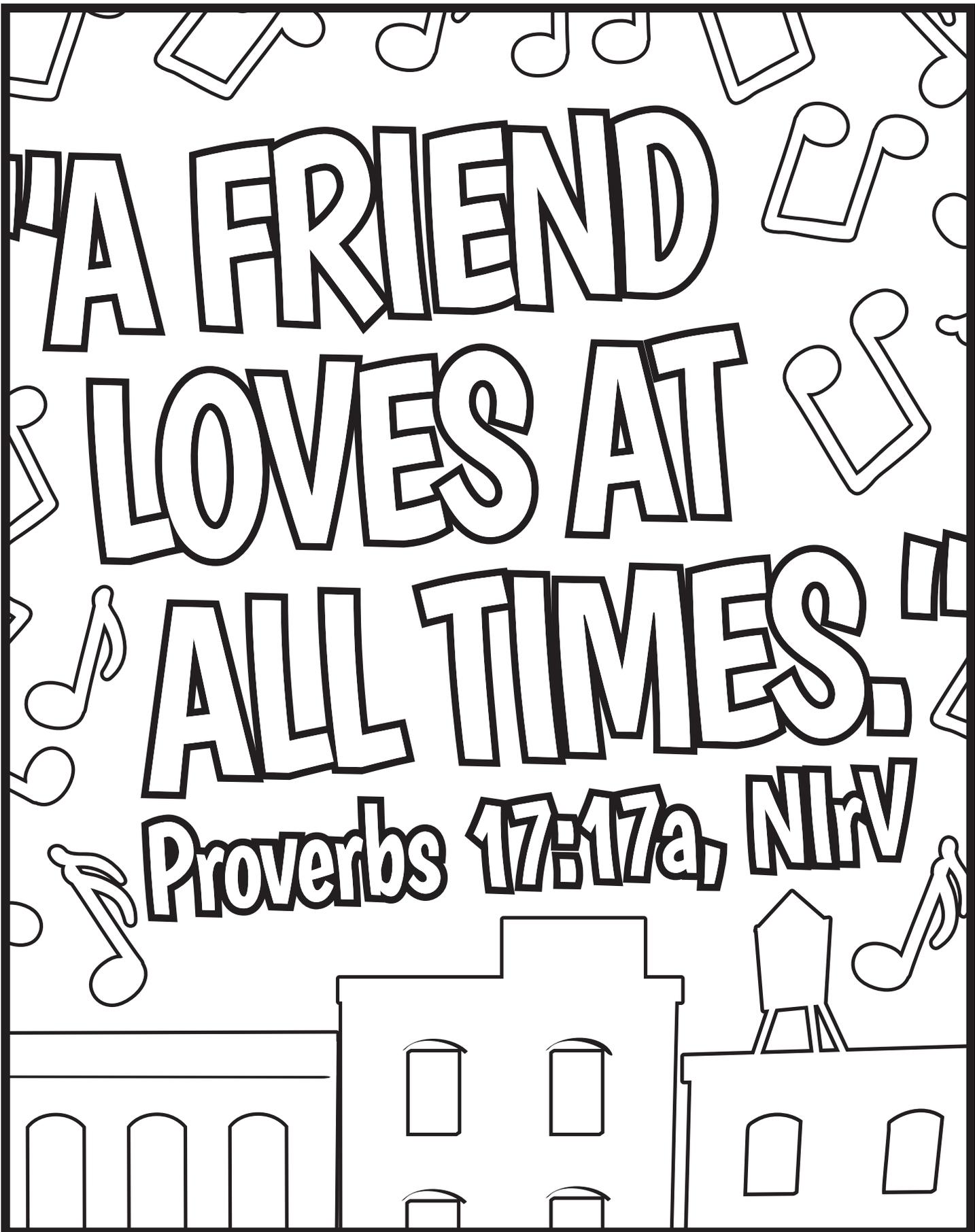
DAY
4

Best Friends

This week we learned about a special friendship that went together just as well. Do you remember who it was? David and _____. Did you know that they are the most famous friendship in the whole Bible? So when someone talks about David they also think about his best friend, Jonathan. That’s pretty amazing. Do you have a friend in your life that is special like that? Maybe you consider them to be your best friend, just like David did! If so, write their name here: _____. Let’s take a minute and pray for them because that’s another way we can show our friends that they are important to us!

Dear God, Thank You for being such a good friend to us. And thank You for giving me an amazing friend like _____. I am very thankful for him/her. Help me to be a good friend to him/her. Amen.

Friends love one another.



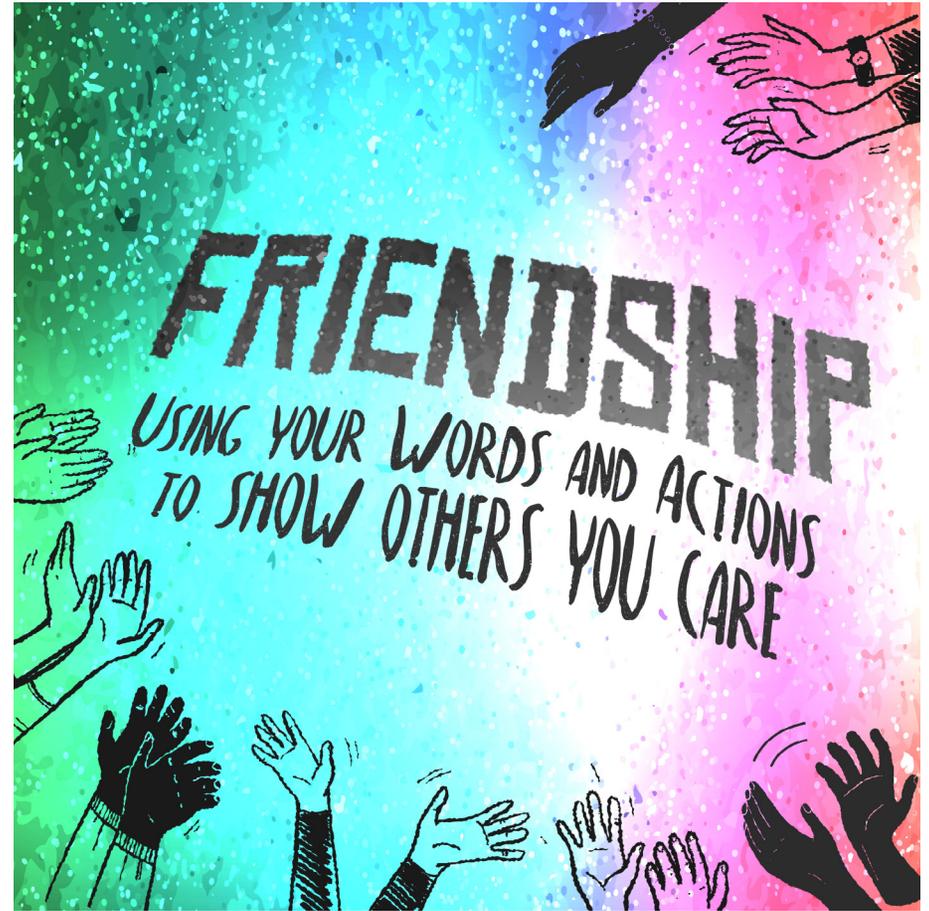
**"A FRIEND
LOVES AT
ALL TIMES."**

Proverbs 17:17a, NIV

Spend some time thinking about the question below and journal your thoughts or share them with a parent.

HOW CAN YOU SHOW YOUR FRIENDS THEY'RE IMPORTANT?

Lined writing area for journaling.



Day 1

Go to Studio252.tv and watch this week's episode of The So & So Show.

Click on Fun2Watch! then The So & So Show.

Even if you already saw it at church, feel free to check it out again!

SO & SO TOP 3

After watching, write one thing that:

- 1. You liked:
2. You learned:
3. You'd like to know:

Day 2

Read 1 Samuel 20:1-21

In 1 Samuel 20, we find the story of a friendship between two men: David and Jonathan. In the first part of the chapter, the two friends make a plan for saving David's life, as Jonathan's father, the king, wants to kill David.

Read 1 Samuel 20:1-21 out loud, and pretend you are on a stage, delivering the lines with passion. Imagine how the friends must have felt, being scared for David's life, not trusting Saul, and also fearing for their future friendship.

As you read, pay special attention to the words and actions of Jonathan. Talk about a BFF (best friend forever) worth having!

Day 3

Jonathan and David made a agreement of friendship before God. This means they made a promise to God that they would always be kind and loving to each other and to their families.

Today, make your own covenant of friendship before God. But instead of making it with a specific friend, pray a prayer of promise that you will be a good friend to everyone. Here's an example, but feel free to change it up and use your own words, just be sure and pray specifically for a friend or two.

"Dear God, thank You for the example of Jonathan and David's friendship that teaches us so much about what it means to be a good friend. They show us that friends love one another, and I want to be that kind of loving friend too. Today, I promise to love my friends. Please help me put others first and always look out for my friends' best interest. Today, I especially want to pray for my friends (list one or more of your close friends) _____ . Please help me know how to best show them I love and care for them as friends do. In Jesus' Name, I pray, amen."

Day 4

Who is a trusted adult or older friend who you have seen being a good and loving friend to others?

Take a few minutes today to talk to that person about friendship. You can use the questions below to interview them about their friendships.

- 1) Who would you say is your closest friend? What do you love about them?
- 2) Did you have a best friend when you were my age? Who was it? What did you love about them?
- 3) What is one way you like to show love to your friends?
- 4) What is one way your friends have shown you their love?

Thank your friendship interviewee for their time, and ask them to pray for you to be a loving friend.

Day 5

Look back to day three. Which friends did you pray for? Choose one or two of them to honor today:

Now it's time to make sure your friends know how much you love them.

Friendships are as unique as people are, so think about what would show love to your friend, which may or may not be the same thing that would mean a lot to you.

Grab a sheet of paper and write down the answer to as many of these categories/questions as you can for each friend you plan to honor:

- 1) Favorite activities
- 2) Favorite foods
- 3) Favorite treats
- 4) Favorite movie
- 5) Favorite music
- 6) Favorite ways to communicate (in person, text, video chat, etc.)

Now use as many of the answers you wrote above to make a Friendship Ambush that will show your friend how much you love them. For example, you could send them a text with a GIF from one of their favorite movies, and make a plan to meet up for their favorite activity. Or you could make their favorite treat and show up on their doorstep with it as a surprise. Make a playlist of their favorite music and have a dance party over video chat. The possibilities are endless—there are so many ways to show your friend how important they are to you!