

Chapter 4 ***Friends***

I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. *John 15:15*

To the Parents:

In chapter 4 your child learned the following:

- To describe what it means to be a friend
- To relate some of Jesus' words about friendship
- To name some ways of showing friendship with Jesus

Take a moment to reflect on the qualities of your best or closest friend. How have you remained friends for a long period of time? What is it you value most in this person? Do you enjoy your conversations and experiences with this person? Do you treasure his or her honesty with you? How about his or her presence and support during difficult times? Now picture Jesus as not only your Lord and savior, but also as your closest friend, your deepest relationship. View your prayer life as honest conversation and the strength of the Holy Spirit as presence and support during difficult times. Christ is present in our lives not as a dominant disciplinarian, but rather as a guide, a firm but gentle part of our being and experience.

Once you can view God as a welcoming, supportive part of your life, you are free to share this experience and love with the rest of the inhabitants of your world. The more revelations you discover through prayer and life experience, the more you find the strength and guidance to act upon your friendship with the Lord.

With Your Child:

1. Family members are friends. Decide on an activity you can do as friends. Make sure everyone can take part.
2. Think of someone in your neighborhood that you might like to get to know better. Make an extra effort to make a new friend.
3. Together read the story about the Feast of All Saints.