

# VALUES AT HOME

## Friendship

This term we will be focusing on the value of friendship. We hope your family will enjoy the stories and activities below as you explore this value at home.

### *Time to talk*

Learning to be a good friend, someone who can be trusted and is loyal, takes a lifetime.

Talk together about how friends come in all shapes and sizes.

Some are young, some are old. Some are always there, some we see only occasionally.

- How do we choose our friends?
- What makes a good friend?
- Are we a good friend to others?

### *Time to read*

#### Through the roof from the gospel of Mark

Jesus reached a town called Capernaum and made his way to a house near the town gate. The crowd had gathered quickly and now even more people were pushing and squeezing into the small house, wanting to see him, hear him and touch him. The excitement was infectious and four friends who lived in a street nearby soon heard the news. They met together and decided that they absolutely had to take their friend Joshua to Jesus. Joshua was paralysed and couldn't walk. They'd heard that Jesus performed miracles and could heal the sick. This was a chance they couldn't miss. Wasting no time they carried their friend on his bed mat to the house, but jostling crowds blocked the doorway. They couldn't give up now. Their friend must meet Jesus. There was only one way. They carried him on to the flat roof of the house and carefully removed part of the roof to make a large hole. Knotting ropes to the corners of the bed mat they gently lowered Joshua down right in front of Jesus. Imagine the surprise of all the people looking on. But Jesus smiled kindly at Joshua. "Take up your bed, and walk" he said. Slowly, falteringly and hardly daring to believe it was happening, Joshua stood and took a step forward. He could walk. He could actually walk! Thanks to Jesus and his friends, Joshua's life was changed forever!





# Fun facts

## Friendship Bands

Friendship bracelets are usually handmade and given to a special friend. According to American tradition you must wear the bracelet until the cords break and it falls off naturally. In this way you honour the love and hard work your friend put in to making it.

One special type of friendship bracelet is a Rakhi. Each year, normally in August, many Hindus mark Raksha Bandhan. The festival is a celebration of family life and in particular the relationship between brothers and sisters. They remember and talk about special times together, and think about loyalty, closeness, trust and their everlasting friendship.

Traditionally sisters tie a sacred thread, a Rakhi, on to their brothers' wrists. In response the brothers give their sisters a gift promising to help them whenever the need arises and to always protect them.

Celebrations continue throughout the day with gifts of sweets and special food as families enjoy the time together.



## Time to pray

God, Thank You for my friends. You tell us that it is not good to be alone, God, and you bless us with family and friends all around us. Thank You for giving us people to talk to and laugh with. I pray for my friends today, Amen



## Family activity

### Friends of the Family

This term's family challenge is to make a card or present for someone who is a friend to your whole family. Add a tag saying... 'Thank you for being a friend to our family'

