

VALUE OF FRIENDS

Long ago the white man and the Indians struggled against each other. It was often a very fierce and bloody struggle. The white man often was trying to remove the Indians from his homeland.

One day there was a battle between a band of Indians and a larger band of white men. It was a bad fight and the Indians were forced to retreat from the immediate area. One of the braves noticed as he was retreating that his best friend was not around. The friend was obviously hurt and back in the battle area. So the brave asked the chief if he could go back and get his friend. The chief knew how bloody the battle was. He told the brave, "The chances of your returning alive are practically none. You can go but I don't think you'll make it. You don't even know if your friend is still alive but you may go."

The brave went back. It was very dangerous. There was fighting still going. Bullets and arrows were flying everywhere. Despite all this, the brave was able to find his friend. The friend was very badly wounded but he was still alive. The friend looked up and recognized the brave and said to him, "I knew you would come."

The brave picked his badly injured friend up and put him on his back. He began the return to the other Indians. The brave made it back to camp but was badly shot. His friend, who was badly injured, was dead. The brave was close to dying himself. The chief came up to the brave and said, "I told you so. The fighting is so bad and you risked your life. You are about to die. Why did you go back? Was it worth it?"

The brave replied. "It was worth it. Because when I found my friend, he said to me, 'I knew you would come.'"

Then the brave died.

THEME: Friends are one of our most valuable possessions. Friends can be counted on to try to understand us and to help us when we have problems or are in trouble. Jesus was all our friend and he died for us. We can always count on Jesus to be our friend.

SCRIPTURE: John 15:13, Proverbs 18:24; Proverbs 19:6 (What a friend isn't).