

# What Is a True and Faithful Friend?

**Vignette 1:** Trey was visibly upset as he read the rejection letter from a university he hoped to attend. He screamed loudly and threw the letter to the floor. Kyle, his best friend, stood by, feeling helpless. Then, after a few moments, Kyle said to Trey: “Hey, you’re one of the most talented people I know. Let’s go shoot a few baskets and chill out a little.” Kyle listened quietly to Trey’s disappointment as they walked over to the basketball court. Kyle said to Trey, “Just want you to know that your letter is just between us.” Which quality of friendship does Kyle possess?

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**Vignette 2:** Jennifer and Jessica have been best friends since sixth grade. Jennifer has just heard that Jessica has been chosen for the leading role in the school musical. Jessica has recently become one of the more popular girls at school. “Jessica is talented and beautiful,” Jennifer thinks to herself. “Why wouldn’t she be popular?” Jennifer feels a twinge of jealousy, even though she knows that she is admired for her academic ability and genuine friendliness. When Jennifer sees her friend Jessica, she tells her: “You are perfect for the lead role! I am so happy for you, and I know that the play will be better than ever this year with you as the lead!” Which quality of friendship does Jennifer possess?

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**Vignette 3:** Collin has just returned to school after being arrested for shoplifting. He feels angry—mostly at himself— and, most of all, he feels embarrassed by making such a poor choice. Collin’s friend David walks by him in the hall without even acknowledging his presence. But at the same moment, Zach walks up, pats Collin on the shoulder, and says: “Good to see you, my friend! Come and have lunch with me and Annie. We’re planning the senior field day and we need your help.” Which quality of friendship does Zach possess?

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**Vignette 4:** Felipe and Jacqueline have decided to go steady. In the second week of going steady, Felipe tells Jacqueline that he wants to marry her someday. Jacqueline smiles, gives Felipe a kiss, and says: “Felipe, I care about you so much. You are a cute, smart, funny, and romantic guy—and I love you. But, I’m young, only a junior in high school. I’m not anywhere close to thinking about marriage! Please understand that I can’t make any long-term promises about us right now.” Which quality of friendship does Jacqueline possess?

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**Vignette 5:** (*The quality of friendship in this vignette sums up all the rest!*) “There, but by the grace of God, go I,” Emma said to herself silently, remembering the words of the sixteenth-century preacher John Bradford. With a gentle smile she handed a dinner plate to the attractive young woman in front of her at the shelter for battered women where she regularly volunteered. Emma greeted the woman: “Good evening. I love your pretty hair pin! Enjoy your dinner and please tell me if you need anything.” How would you describe the most important quality that Emma possesses? (Hint: It begins with the letter e and is not *Emma*.)

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