

**I**nvite Jesus to play

**Isaiah 41:10b**

***“...I will make you strong and help you.***

***My powerful right hand will take good care of you. I always do what is right.”***

When you invite your friends to play, what do you expect from them? A group of kids was asked that same question, and here were some of their responses:

*“I want them to treat me nice and listen to me when I talk.”*

*“I want my friends to take care of my things and not break them.”*

*“I don’t want them to get me into trouble.”*

*“I don’t like it when my friend comes over and is mean to my brother.”*

*“I want friends who will be happy for me when I make a good grade and sad for me when I’m having a bad day.”*

*“I’d like to have a friend who wouldn’t make fun of me when I tell them a secret.”*

*“Well, I want a friend who just enjoys themselves and isn’t jealous of my things.”*

*“I don’t have friends anymore. Every time I have one, I think they’re my friend, and then the next day, they are mean to me. I don’t get that.”*

*“All I’ve ever really wanted was a friend who would be loyal to me when we’re playing with other kids.”*

Wow! Do you have any friends that fit all of these descriptions? If you really gave it some thought and were honest, you would probably have to say “no.” Does that mean you give up on friendship altogether? Of course not! The truth is that no human being was meant to meet all of your needs. No friend on earth can treat you perfectly all the time, because they’re going to make mistakes.

The absolutely, totally, cool and awesome thing, though, is that Your BEST friend in the whole wide world—JESUS, the best~est friend EVER—will never let you down. HE will always do what is right. He will always be there, and He will always take care of you...100 % of the time, guaranteed, you can count on it! So whether you’re at home alone or with your friends at school or church, invite Jesus to play...ask Him to make you strong and to help you be the kind of friend you should be to others. Jesus is your fun, faithful and forgiving friend, forever and ever. Amen.

**Discuss the following questions with your parent/s:**

- 1. Read John 15:12. Based on this Scripture, who has greater love than anyone?**
- 2. How have friends let you down in the past? Have you asked Jesus to meet those needs instead of your friends?**
- 3. Are you the kind of friend to others that Jesus has been to you?**

*“Js place is jazzy, with a judge and a jury. So let’s hope next Friday comes in a hurry!”*