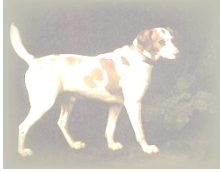


Friendship Deeds, From A-Z



Wag your tail when they don't fail!

Romans 12:15a

"Be joyful with those who are joyful..."

It has been said that dogs wag their tails to make sure everyone around them knows how they feel. Aren't you glad they do that? When you talk sweet to a dog, he'll often wag his tail. Whenever you're happy about something, often your dog is happy with you (if you have one). Think about this for a minute: Why do you think the popular saying is that "Dog is man's best friend." Is a man's dog unhappy when his owner is happy? Is a dog happy when her owner is unhappy?

Well, the same is true of friends. If you call yourself "friend" to someone else, you can learn a lot from man's best friend, can't you? It's one thing to encourage your friends when they're sad, but it's sometimes more difficult to be happy when they win or do really great at something. Here's an example: You and your friend are on the same soccer team. Your friend scores the winning goal. Are you happy for him—one of the first to congratulate him, or are you upset that you didn't get the score. Another example: Your friend gets a brand new toy....the same one that you've been begging your parents for. Are you happy for her, or are you busy thinking that life's not fair!

If this is a problem area for you, know that Jesus understands your feelings. It's difficult not to feel sad or jealous sometimes when your friends or family seem to be getting or doing the very thing you'd like yourself. Pray about this. God, your very best friend, is here to encourage you to do the right thing. God wouldn't put this instruction in scripture if He weren't going to help you obey it!!!! As silly as it sounds, the Lord's desire is for you to grow up in your Christian life learning to wag your tail when others don't fail. As you begin to rejoice when others rejoice with the help of YOUR best friend, you'll have joy down deep inside your heart—and that's the greatest joy of all!

Discuss the following questions with your parent/s:

- 1. How do you feel when a friend does better at something than you do?**
- 2. Do you ever feel sad when your friend is happy? If so, why?**
- 3. Name a time when you were excited about something and your friends weren't happy with you. How did that make you feel?**

When your tail stops wagging and you're ready to bite, letter "X" will help you do what is right!