

NARESH AND GOPAL

Aesop's Fable

**“To be friendly with words
But not with deeds
Is like feeding birds
With grass, not seeds.”**

Naresh and Gopal were friends. Naresh told Gopal, “Whatever happens I will always be your friend. In any difficulty or danger I will always help you.”

One day, they went for a walk in a forest. Before long, Gopal fell down and hurt his legs. So he could not walk far. They sat under a tree to talk.

Suddenly a big black bear appeared. Naresh at once climbed a tree. Because of his hurt legs, Gopal could not climb the tree. So he lay on the ground very still. The bear came right up and sniffed him. Gopal did not move. So thinking he was dead the bear moved into the forest.

Then, Naresh came down from the tree and jokingly asked Gopal, “What did the bear tell you?”

Questions

1. Did you like the story? Why? Explain.
2. Which part of the story did you like best or least? Explain.
3. Did the bear say anything to Gopal? What could that be?
4. Was Naresh a true friend of Gopal? Why?
5. Have you got friends? Are you happy with them? Explain.
6. Have you ever made them unhappy with your actions?
7. Are your friends helping you to be good? How?

Suggested activities.

- Perform a small skit with your friends on this story
- Make charts showing true friendships and wrong friendships?

QUESTIONNAIRE – COURTESY

Instruction for the Teachers or Moderators

1. Give the questionnaire to the students:
2. Explain how to reply to it.
3. Once they replied to the 30 questions, ask them to rate themselves.
 - Questions b) carries 2 plus marks.
 - Questions a) carries 1 minus marks.
 - Questions c) carries 2 minus marks
4. Next, ask them to go over to their ratings help them reflect in what areas of their lives they were more or less courteous. The areas covered in the questionnaire are: School Home. Dealing with outsiders
5. Next ask them to take some notes on:
 - In what area of your life are you less courteous? How? Why? Find the cause.
 - What will you do from today to improve yourself? What action will you take?

QUESTIONNAIRE – COURTESY

Instructions

You will find 30 different life situations that may take place in your daily living. In each case three answers are possible. Tick one of them. Choose not the “ideal” answer, - namely, the one you think is best – but the one that expresses what you would likely do where you find yourself in that situation.

1. When your brother/ sister/ colleague is clever and popular,
do you,
(a) Feel bad?
(b) Accept him / her wholeheartedly?

(c) Run him / her down? ()

2. When your parents/ Superiors are strict and old fashioned:
do you,

(a) Feel ashamed of them, disregard them in your heart? ()

(b) Accept them as they are and respect them? ()

(c) Act rude and / or ridicule them? ()

3. At a function, party or game,
do you,

(a) Get annoyed, if they do not give the best places and seats? ()

(b) Give others a chance of choosing what they like best? ()

(c) Choose and grab the best things for you? ()

4. When you are with children and people younger than you,
do you,

(a) Ignore them? ()

(b) Treat them with respect as equals? ()

(c) Boss over them? ()

5. When dealing with servants, peons and simple people,
do you,

(a) Take them for granted? ()

(b) Deal with them as with equals, gently and politely? ()

(c) Shout at them, disrespect them? ()

6. When you want something from others (Parents, Teachers, etc),
do you say,

(a) I want this or that? ()

(b) Please, may I have this or that?

()

(c) You take it without asking?

()

7. If by mistake you do something that hurts others,
do you,

(a) Keep quiet? ()

(b) Say : Sorry? ()

(c) Blame them for it? ()

8. When someone praises you,
do you,

(a) Give excuses not accept their compliments? ()

- (b) Say: "Thank you"? ()
- (c) Ignore the compliment? ()

9. If you cannot follow what someone tells you:
do you,

- (a) Say nothing and pretend to understand? ()
- (b) Say "I beg your pardon"? ()
- (c) Say "I can't understand" or "what did you say"? ()

10. When someone in authority corrects you,
do you,

- (a) Sulk? ()
- (b) Say : "Thank you"? ()
- (c) Excuse yourself and try to prove yourself right? ()

11. On the birthdays of friends and acquaintances :
do you,

- (a) Forget them? ()
- (b) Wish them? ()
- (c) Purposely not wish them? ()

12. When someone gets a prize or succeeds in anything:
do you,

- (a) Ignore him / her? ()
- (b) Heartily congratulate him / her? ()
- (c) Feel envious of him / her and even runs him / her down? ()

13. When someone tenders you an apology,
do you,

- (a) Refuse to accept it? ()
- (b) Gratefully accept it? ()
- (c) Blame him / her and make him / her feel guilty? ()

14. When you are sick and cared for by your Parents or others,
do you,

- (a) Take it for granted / that's their duty? ()
- (b) Show them gratitude and appreciation? ()
- (c) Grumble at the way they look after you? ()

15. When you see others failing and being unsuccessful,
do you,

- (a) Not bother about them? ()
- (b) Sympathise with them and encourage them? ()
- (c) Rejoice over their failures? ()

16. If ever you hurt other's feelings: Parents, companions etc.
do you,
- (a) Remain indifferent to their feelings? ()
 - (b) Feel sorry and apologise? ()
 - (c) Feel that you are right and they are wrong? ()
17. When asked to co-operate with companions, superiors etc.
do you do it:
- (a) Solely out of duty? ()
 - (b) Willingly out of love? ()
 - (c) Because you are forced to do it? ()
18. When you take your leave from people,
do you,
- (a) Wait for a little while and go unnoticed? ()
 - (b) Say; "Excuse me" and go gently? ()
 - (c) Just get up and go without any excuse? ()
19. When you move around with your companions and friends,
do you,
- (a) Stick to the company of one or two of them forgetting the rest? ()
 - (b) Show cheerfulness and friendliness to all? ()
 - (c) Make fun of others by teasing and ragging? ()
20. When you find some physical defect in others: stammering,
limping, deafness, etc.... do you,
- (a) Make them conscious of it by your attitude? ()
 - (b) Treat them respectfully and lovingly? ()
 - (c) Make fun of them? ()
21. When you get angry with people
do you,
- (a) Stop talking to them? ()
 - (b) Express your anger in a polite way? ()
 - (c) Use abuse words and un-polite language? ()
22. If you see your home people or your colleagues doing some hard,
unpleasant work / carrying heavy loads, sweeping, dusting etc.
do you,
- (a) Help only if asked? or pretend not to see? ()
 - (b) Offer them your help? ()
 - (c) Refuse to help? ()

23. While traveling or in public places, if you see old and sick people in need: do you,
- (a) Look at the opposite direction and pretend not to see? ()
 - (b) Offer them our seat and help them? ()
 - (c) Refuse to give your seat or to help them, even if asked? ()
24. When you enter anyone's house, office, classroom, etc do you,
- (a) Step in straight away? ()
 - (b) Knock at the door and wait till they say "Come in"? ()
 - (c) Knock and enter immediately? ()
25. When you realize that something you do (singing, talking aloud, whistling, playing the radio or T.V. etc) annoys other: do you,
- (a) Carry on doing it, all the same? ()
 - (b) Stop it, and say sorry? ()
 - (c) Wait till they tell you to stop it? ()
26. When someone close to you is sick (family members, friends): do you,
- (a) Not bother? Forget them? ()
 - (b) Visit them, inquire about their health, offer your services? ()
 - (c) On purpose, you do not visit them or help them? ()
27. When attending a talk. Lecture, class, etc. do you,
- (a) Show inattention, boredom, disinterest? ()
 - (b) Try to listen attentively? ()
 - (c) Interrupt and disturb? ()
28. When a teacher, lecturer or speaker is speaking and you want to ask a question: do you,
- (a) Keep making signs, worrying the speaker till he/ she asks you What do you want? ()
 - (b) Make a gentle sign to indicate the speaker your wish? ()
 - (c) You butt in, and interrupt the speaker right away? ()
29. If by accident you break something or cause any damage: do you,
- (a) Just keep quiet? ()
 - (b) Report the matter to those concerned? ()
 - (c) Blame others for it? ()
30. When you do not like a show or a performance: do you,

- (a) Show dislike by signs or other means? ()
- (b) Keep quiet? ()
- (c) You boo? ()

ASEMBLIES

TEN WAYS TO LOSE A JOB IN AN INTERVIEW
For Being Impolite

1. Knocking too loudly.
2. Knocking insistently.
3. Entering without being told.

4. Not greeting the Interviewers.
5. Sitting in bad manners.
6. Fidgeting with everything.
7. Demanding, not requesting.
8. Not properly groomed, shabby clothes hair unkempt.
9. Dressing too fashionably and dandy.
10. Vulgar language.

TEN WAYS TO LOSE A JOB AT AN INTERVIEW

Narrator: The Managing Directors of Thomson, Tillick and Co, advertised in the newspapers that new hands were wanted for their new Factory at Thane.

Today is the day for interviewing the applicants.

Manager 1: Let us hope that today many clever, qualified and courteous applicants will turn up for the interview.

Manager 2: Yes, we need them for our Factory and Office.

Manager 3: It is very important that we employ polite, well – behaved and good – mannered young persons if we want our firm to project a good image before the general public.

APPLICANT 1) Knocks at the Door Madly.

Applic. 1 (BANG..... BANG... Very loudly as if knocking the door down)

Managers: (All get startled...) Come in!

Manager 1: What's the matter with you, young man?

Manager 2: Why this mad knocking at our door? Do you want to bring the door down?

Applic. 1 Well, ... I read your advert in the papers and I came for the interview.

Manager 3: Sorry, young man... there is no vacancy for you...

APPLICANT 2) Knocks insistently.

Manager 1: What a nuisance! Can they not knock at the door gently?
Applic. 2: (BANG..... BANG... Knocks gently)
Manager 2: A moment, please...
Applic. 2: (Keeps banging with insistence...)
Manager 3: Kindly wait...
Applic. 2: (Keeps banging all the same...)
Manager 1: Just a minute...
Applic. 2: (Keeps banging ...)
Manager 2: Come in!
Applic. 2: (Enters)
Manager 3: Can't you wait for a minute? Get out from here! No job for you!

APPLICANT 3) Enters the Room without knocking

Manager 1: I can't understand how these fellows dare come in for interview when they lack the basic good manners, I wonder...
Applic. 3: Enters without knocking at the door and interrupts Manager 1
Applic. 3: Good morning sirs!...
Managers: Show surprise and annoyance – by their gestures
Manager 2: What do you think? Is this grandfather's house that you may step in without knocking at the door?
Manager 3: Have they not taught you to knock at the door before you enter in somebody else's place?
Manager 1: Now, kindly, go out of our room and do not come again. Your interview.... Is over!

APPLICANT 4) Entering the room but does not greet the Interviewers.

Applic. 4: (Knocks properly)
Manager 1: Thanks be to God! At last there is an applicant who seems to know how to knock at the door...
Manager 2: Come in!

Applic. 4: Enters the room. Does not greet the interviewers and without being asked sits down

Managers: By gestures, show disapproval

Applic. 4: I read you “ad” in the papers. I came for an interview...

Manager 3: Can’t you say “Good morning” to us? Are we nobodies here?

Manager 1: Young man, the door is open... Please, go out... No job for you!

APPLICANT 5) He sits and behaves in bad manners.

Manager 1: Let us hope that the next applicant will have the elementary manners of knocking gently and greeting us in a polite way.

Applic.5: Knocks gently, enters when called and greets the interviewers

Manager 2: Come in!

Applic. 5: (Enters) Good morning, Sirs!

Manager 3: (Wispers to his confreres) At last we got a polite applicant! (Tells the applicant) Sit down, please.

Applic. 5: Thank you, sir. (And sits down in a very uncouth manner)
(Crossed legs... swinging ... touching his feet... stretching himself... finally putting his feet on the interviewers table) Sirs I was so happy to read in the papers about your employing new hands... I would be very glad to secure a job in your prestigious firm... I promise you that if you employ me...

Manager 1: Judging by the way you sit, I wonder how much will you care for the prestige of our firm...

Manager 2: Irritated, Cant you sit properly? Is this the way to sit?

Applic. 5: Showing surprise, What’s wrong with my sitting?

Manager 3: Please, leave the room... The interview is over!

Applic. 5: Goes out muttering to himself..., What’s wrong?.. What’s wrong?...

APPLICANT 6) Fidgeting with everything

- ❖ Ghosh! Shall we not be able to select one single polite and courteous candidate! Where have we gone to!
- ❖ Knocks
- ❖ Good morning, Sirs...
- ❖ Sit down...
- ❖ Sits properly...
- ❖ What can we do for you?
- ❖ Begins fidgeting with all things on the table... even the specs of the interviewers.
- ❖ Well , I would like very much to get employed by your firm... I finished my MSC, with a 1st Class...
- ❖ I am afraid had you to sit for a good manners exams you would fail miserably ... Will you stop tampering and fidgeting with what is not yours
- ❖ I am sorry to tell you, we cannot employ you in our firm, you did not pass out test in good manners. Bye... bye..

APPLICANT 7) Demanding. Not requesting.

- ❖ Knocks...
- ❖ Good morning...
- ❖ Come in...
- ❖ Sit down..
- ❖ Yes... may we know your name?
- ❖ My name is Gopal. I want a job... you have to give it to me, because I need it very badly... you cannot let me down simply at all... I deserve it and I'll not take a no for an answer...
- ❖ Young lad, what are you coming here for? Demand from us... to threaten us... who are you to tell us what we should do?
- ❖ Please, be gone! No job for the likes of you!

APPLICANT 8) Ungroomed:

- ❖ We are really unlucky today... Shall we get a decent candidate...

- ❖ Knocks....
- ❖ Greeting....
- ❖ Sitting
- ❖ Please, first go home, get a hair cut, wash your face... send your clothes to the dhobi and then come for an interview... but, I am afraid later on will be too late for you... No need applying again..

APPLICANT 9) Too Fashionable... to faddy...

- ❖ Knocks
- ❖ Greet...
- ❖ Sit...
- ❖ Sirs, I read your advert in the papers and promptly I came for an interview... I would be delighted to work for your firm...
- ❖ Excuse me? Do you know what sort of business we run here?
- ❖ Of course!
- ❖ I am afraid you would like to work as a model for a fashion stores... I think you came to the wrong place... We want seriousness here, not style!...

APPLICANT 10) Slang language:

- ❖ Knocks...
- ❖ Greets....
- ❖ Sits....
- ❖ Good morning! So, you would like to have a job!
- ❖ My jolly! Of course?
- ❖ Why do you want to change your firm?
- ❖ My boss is an idiot and a son of a gun....
- ❖ Please mind your language... we are not interested who your boss is.
- ❖ But he is that and much more... You know he does not allow us even to move our asses from the our desks...
- ❖ Enough is enough!... Out you go.

❖ We cannot stand that sort of language in our firm...

UNFORTUNATELY, that day the interviewers could not find one single candidate applicable for their firm, although many of them were highly qualified! All of them did not qualify however, in courtesy!

THEMES FOR ON THE SPOT ROLE-PLAYS

TASKS FOR THE COMING 14 WEEKS (Courtesy habits to be learned)

1st: THANKING OTHERS (Gratefulness) (Thank you, so kind of you...)

2nd: REQUESTING THINGS – NOT DEMANDING. (Kindly, please could you...)

3rd: APPOLOGISING : (I beg your pardon, excuse me, pardon, I am sorry...)

4th: GREETING : (Good morning, How do you do, hallo)

5th: TAKING LEAVE : (Bye, bye, Good-bye, so long, hope to see you again)

6th: EXTERNAL SIGNS OF COURTESY : (Stand up, allow others to pass, opening the door,)

7th: EXPRESSING POSITIVE FEELINGS ABOUT OTHERS : (I am so happy to see you... delighted... I am so glad... Most happy... It's a joy to have met you...)

8th : GIVE PRAISE AND RECOGNITION : (So nice of you, congrats... I like your talk, game, etc... So kind of you... Well done)

9th : GOING OUT OF ONESELF TO HELP : (Doing a job for someone, carrying a parcel, sharing what one has, giving information, entertaining others, spending time with them...)

10th : BE SENSITIVE TO THE FEELINGS OF OTHERS : (Do not tease to the extent of hurting, allow freedom and privacy, empathise, do not taunt, calling names, avoid irony, do not interfere, be prudent in your questions, etc...)

11th : MIND YOUR LANGUAGE : AVOID :
: Bad words : Bs, four letter words.... Slang words:
: Unpolite words : Shut up, get out, be lost.

12th : SMILING : (Meet others with a smiling face...)

13th : LISTENING : (Give others an attentive listening... Do not interrupt them while they talk... show interest to what they say...)

14th : THOUGHTFULNESS : (Think of others, their likes, their interests, their problems, and let them feel you do...
F.i. : drop them a letter, make a phone call, send them a paper cutting, anything they might be interested in...)

COURTESY: (SEMANTICS)

- | | | |
|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| - Attention | - Benevolence | - Interest |
| - Affability | - Charity | - Regard |
| - Civility | - Fellow-feeling | - Sensitivity |
| - Complacency | - Compassion | - Involvement |
| - Elegance | - Gentleness | - Courteous |
| - Good manners | - Gracefulness | - Charity |

- Good breeding	- Humanity	- Esteem
- Good Education	- Tenderness	- To value
- Graciousness	- Amenable	- To honour
- Polish	- Amiable	- To notice
- Politeness	- Amicable	- Affirmation
- Urbanity	- Benignity	- Reverence
- Refinement	- Sympathy	- Support
- Respect Understanding	- Kindness	-
- Obliging	- Concern	- Excuse
- Concern	- Pleasantness	- Exonerate
- Thoughtfulness	- Warmth	- Deference
- Finesse	- Nobility	- Recognition
- Kindness	- Acceptance	- Compliment
- Deference	- Etiquette	- Praising
- Friendliness	- Obliging	- Apologise
- Affectionate	- Delicate	- Love

The Miracle in the Church of our Lady of Velamkanni

There was a miracle in the Church of our Lady of Velamkanni. No one has heard till today of such a miracle. It was a Sunday, a carpenter heard a voice speaking in the church. After some minutes our Lady appeared as a child. The child said “Do not be afraid. Listen to me carefully and with devotion”. I am visiting you all on the earth and tell them to make reparation for their sins, therefore print 200 messages and distribute them. Then you will receive Blessings from the Lord. After saying this the child disappeared. When a man from

Vishakhapattanam heard about this he distributed 1100 messages. As a result he got a lottery of Rupees 65,00, 000 (Rs. Sixty five lac. only). Another man from a place called Akra distributed 600 messages. Within 24 days he found a gold treasure. Another poor man also did the same and he could get his daughter married to a well to do good family. As gratitude he distributed another 1000 message when a particular man got this message he made fun and tore it. Immediately he met with an accident. A person whose name was Babulal took it lightly and delayed one month to print this message. This man had a great loss in the business and also lost his wife. In a place called Lahore 5 persons got together and distributed 851 messages they flourished in their business. When a rickshaw driver heard about it he distributed 1000 message. He got a lottery of Rs. 25 lacs. In a place called Hankavinayamm a particular person had a lot of problems in his house. As soon as he got this message he distributed 100 messages within 9 days and then all his problems were solved. Another person called Johnson when he believed in the mother of God, all his family problems were solved.

The Lord has said “Ask and you shall receive, knock and it shall be opened to you, seek and you shall find”. If you believe this distribute the message within fifteen days. If you do this you will receive the Blessings of the Lord.

One of the
Believer.

NAMES: NAMES: NAMES:

Mum: O, dear, what's happened today in school?

Boy: You know, mum, Popatlal did it to me at recess time. He punched me very badly on my eyes.

Mum: Who is Popat ?

Boy: A boy of my class.

Mum: I'll come with you at 2. 00 p.m. to see teacher about this. What's your teacher's name?

Boy: She is Mrs. Cobrawalla.

Mum: Good afternoon, Mrs. Cobrawalla! (All the boys laugh!)

Teacher: (Indignant) Excuse me, Madam, you are insulting me!

My name is not Mrs. Cobrawalla, but Miss Tavares.

Who are you to come to my class to make fun of me in front of the students?

Mum: Excuse me, Miss, I apologise... I really, feel very bad, but my son told me that you were called by that name.

Teacher: Who is your son? May I know?

Mum: His name is Manick.

Teacher: O, the new boy, who joined school, just yesterday?

Mum: Yes, exactly.

Teacher: (To Manick) Tell me son, why have you told your Mum my wrong name? You know I feel very offended and angry with what you have done!

Boy: Sorry, teacher, But I didn't know...

Teacher: Who told you my wrong name.

Boy: I think he is Popatlal... (All the boys laugh)

Teacher: Popatlal?... (Showing surprise) you say? There is not any boy by this name in our class!

Boy: Yes, teacher... (He points with his finger) That boy over there. (More laughter in class)

Teacher: But, his name is Deepak Naik?

Boy: But, all the class calls him Popatlal, teacher... (Big laughter)

Teacher: **GOOD GRACIOUS ME !....
CAN WE NOT CALL EACH OTHER, BY OUR TRUE NAME!
STOP RAGGING AND NICKNAMING!
IT'S UNPOLITE AND HURTS PEOPLE'S FEELINGS!**

Woe to the souls where Christ does not dwell!

Where God was displeased with the Jews, he delivered Jerusalem to the enemy, and they were conquered by those who hated them; there were no more sacrifices or feasts.

Likewise angered at a soul who had broken his commands, God handed it over to its enemies, who corrupted and totally dishonored it. When a house has no master living in it, it becomes dark, vile and contemptible, choked with filth and disgusting refuse. So too is a soul which has lost its master, who once rejoiced there with his angels. This soul is darkened with sin, its desires are degraded, and it knows nothing but shame.

Woe to the path that is not walked on, or along which the voices of men are not heard, for then it becomes the haunt of wild animals.

Woe to the soul if the Lord does not walk within it to banish with his voice the spiritual beasts of sin.

Woe to the house where no master dwells,

to the field where no farmer works,

to the pilotless ship, storm-tossed and sinking.

Woe to the soul without Christ as its true pilot; drifting in the darkness, buffeted by the waves of passion, storm-tossed at the mercy of evil spirits, its end is destruction.

Woe to the soul that does not have Christ to cultivate it with care to produce the good fruit of the Holy Spirit. Left to itself, it is choked with thorns and thistles; instead of fruit it produces only what is fit for burning.

Woe to the soul that does not have Christ to dwelling in it; deserted and foul with filth of the passions, it becomes a haven for all the vices.

When a farmer prepares to till the soil he must put on clothing and use tools that are suitable. So Christ, our heavenly king, came to till the soil of mankind devastated by sin. He assumed a body and, using the cross as his ploughshare, cultivated the barren soul of man. He removed the thorns and thistles which are

the evil spirits and pulled up the weeds of sin. Into the fire he cast the straw of wickedness. And when he had ploughed the soul with the wood of the cross, he planted in it a most lovely garden of the Spirit, that could produce for its Lord and God the sweetest and most pleasant fruit of every kind.

PRAYER and YOU

Self – Evaluation On Prayer What is your CURRENT understanding and practice of prayer? This evaluation will help you think through your CURRENT prayer life. Rate each of the following according to this scale: -

A = this is prayer. B = I'm not sure if this is prayer C = this is not prayer.

1. Reading the Bible.
2. Asking GOD for things.
3. Going to Mass.
4. Reflecting on my life.
5. Thinking about GOD.
6. Taking a nature walk.
7. Talking over a problem with a friend.
8. Thanking GOD for what He has given me.
9. Expressing sorrow.

II. Christians consider all of the following to be PRAYER EXPERIENCES.

Indicate how frequently you engage in each of them according to the following rating system:-

VF = very frequently. F = frequently. S = sometimes. N = never.

1. Asking GOD to cure sick friends and relatives
2. Asking GOD for help in order to succeed in life.
3. Participating in Mass.
4. Reading the Bible.
5. Asking GOD'S help to resist temptation.
6. Thinking about the life of JESUS.
7. Thanking GOD for the beautiful things in creation.
8. Reciting the Rosary.
9. Asking GOD for forgiveness after doing something wrong.
10. Realising that GOD is present in everything He made, including me.
11. Examining our conscience each night before going to sleep.
12. Reflecting on the good things that we have and thanking GOD for them.
13. Talking to GOD INFORMALLY AS A FRIEND.
14. Reading spiritual books.
15. Trying to figure out with GOD'S help, why certain people have come into our life and why certain things have happened the way they did.
16. Reciting formal prayers like the "Our Father."
17. Asking for the LORD'S help when trying to make a decision.
18. Consciously trying to see GOD in other people.
19. Spending quiet time in a chapel or a church.
20. Saying the grace before and after meals.

If you pray, what is your favorites way to pray and why?

SAYING YES TO FAITH

Answer each question below with a yes or no. Write larger or smaller to show how firmly you feel. For example, the question "Is your bedroom usually clean and neat?" could be answered –

YES Yes Yes no no **No**

A. DO I WANT TO DEEPEN MY PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?

- Do I set aside at least a few minutes each day to be with God in prayer?
- Do I read the scriptures often, searching there for God's words to me?
- Do I consider Jesus a personal friend, someone who makes a real difference in my life?

- Am I trying to model my life on Jesus' teachings and example?
- Do I turn to God for help when I am troubled, frightened, tempted, confused?
- Do I thank God often for the little and big gifts life offers each day?
- Do I choose companions and activities that help me to remember God's presence and avoid those which might keep me from him?
- Do I build retreats, days of prayer, and other special times of closeness to God into my life?
- Am I aware that God lives within me and that he loves me personally and uniquely?

B. DO I WANT TO LIVE BY CHRISTIAN VALUES? DO I WANT TO BELONG TO GROUPS WHICH HELP ME TO DO SO?

- Do I try to live according to the Christian values and morals my parents have taught me?
- Do I do my part to help make my family a truly Christian family?
- Do I encourage my friends to live by Christian values and morals?
- Am I honest and truthful in my dealing with friends and family?
- Am I caring and helpful with everyone, especially with people in need?
- Do I stand up for positive Christian values in the face of peer pressure?
- Do I have a Christian attitude concerning
 - sexuality
 - the use of drug and alcohol
 - responsibility driving
 - respect for authority
 - the poor and minority group
 - reverence for life
 - respect for property

THE BRICK

**Read this today and don't keep it for some other time if you are too busy!!
You'll see...**

A young and successful executive was traveling down a neighborhood street, going a bit too fast in his new Jaguar. He was watching for kids darting out from

between parked cars and slowed down when he thought he saw something. As his car passed, no children appeared. Instead, a brick smashed into the Jag's side door! He slammed on the brakes and backed the Jug back to the spot where the brick had been thrown.

The angry driver then jumped out of the car, grabbed the nearest kid & pushed him up against a parked car shouting, "What was that all about and who are you? Just what the heck are you doing? That's a new car and the brick you threw is going to cost a lot of money. Why did you do it?"

The young boy was apologetic. "Please, mister... please, I'm sorry but I didn't know what else to do," He pleaded. "I threw the brick because no one else would stop..." With tears dripping down his face and off his chin, the youth pointed to a spot just around a parked car. "It's my brother," he said. "He rolled off the curb and fell out of his wheelchair and I can't lift him up."

No sobbing, the boy asked the stunned executive, "Would you please help me get him back into his wheelchair? He's hurt and he's too heavy for me."

Moved beyond words the driver tried to swallow the rapidly swelling lump in his throat. He hurriedly lifted the handicapped boy back into the wheelchair, then took out a linen handkerchief and dabbed at the fresh scrapes and cuts. A quick look told him everything was going to be okay. "Thank you and may God bless you," the grateful child told the stranger. Too shook up for words, the men simply watched the boy push his wheelchair-bound brother down the sidewalk towards their home.

It was a long slow walk back to the Jaguar. The damage was very noticeable but the driver never bothered to repair the dented side door. He kept the dent there to remind him of this message!"

"Don't go through life so fast that someone has to throw a brick at you to get your attention!"

**God whispers in our souls and speaks to our hearts. Sometimes when we
don't
have time to listen, He has to throw a brick at us.
It's our choice to listen or not.**