



# **KIDS**

**weekly devotional**



## Proverbs 16:24

"Kind words are like honey - sweet to the soul and healthy for the body."





As Chase was walking home from school, he saw a boy he didn't know sitting on the corner by the city bus stop. He was wearing an old sweater with three buttons missing. It was a very cold day, and the boy was shivering.

"Hi, my friend, you look cold," said Chase. "Here, take my jacket. I don't want you to freeze."

"No, I can't do that," said the boy. "Then you would freeze. We shouldn't both be cold."

Chase stuck his hand in his pocket to see if maybe he had some money to help the boy buy an old jacket at the thrift store down the street. Anything that would be warmer than the old sweater with holes in it. But his hand came out empty.

"I don't have any money, but I want to help you," he said. "All I have is my jacket. I don't have anything to give you."

The boy looked up at Chase with a big smile on his face and began to laugh.

"Why are you laughing," he asked.

"You have given me more than I could ever ask for," said the boy.

"I haven't given you anything," said Chase.

"You called me 'friend' and it has been a long time since anyone called me friend," said the boy.

The boy told Chase that his name was Gabriel and that he and his family were kind of poor. His dad lost his job about a year ago and they have been doing the best they could to eat and stay warm.

The logo for 'devo' features the word in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font with a slight 3D effect. It is centered over a large cyan circle, which is partially overlapped by a smaller purple circle below it. The background is a dark blue gradient with a colorful, abstract brushstroke pattern at the top and bottom edges.

# devo

"I think sometimes people are afraid to talk to you if you look like you are homeless," said Gabriel. "And I look pretty homeless."

Chase didn't know what to say, so he sat down on the curb next to Gabriel and just listened to his new friend.

"You came right up to me and called me friend," he said. "No one has ever done that. It's the best gift anyone could have given me."



# point

Gabriel never thought that a few words could make such a difference in how he felt. But then he remembered a verse his mom taught him a long time ago.

"You, know, my mom taught me a bible verse a long time ago," said Gabriel. "It talks about how a kind word can help both your body and your soul. I think you did that for me today."

"Wow, I don't think I have ever helped a person's soul before," said Chase. "I mean, Jesus talks about how we are supposed to love Him and love others. But I think this is the first time I've ever actually done that."


"You believe in Jesus," asked Gabriel. "I knew there was something about you that was different."

That made Chase realize that Jesus really does make a difference in peoples' lives.

"What was the verse you were telling me about," asked Chase. "Oh, by the way, my name is Chase."

"That's a pretty cool name," he said. "The verse is in Proverbs and says a 'kind word is like honey; it's sweet to the soul and healthy to the body'."

"That's neat," said Chase. "Okay, Gabriel, it's cool that my words were sweet to your soul, but now we really need to do something for your shivering body."





# point

"No, really, you have done enough, Chase," said Gabriel.

"No, I haven't," he said. "Come on, I have a couple of jackets at home I can give you. And listen, if I don't give you one of my jackets, my mom will be very upset with me."

"Well, we don't want your mom upset with you," said Gabriel. "Okay, let's go. And, Chase, thank you very much for being my friend."





# lesson

What do your words do for your friends? Are they kind and encouraging, gentle and wise? Are they like a butterfly that gently floats through the air? Or are they like a bee that stings. Do your words hurt people and cause them to be sad? This story shows how a simple word like "friend" can make someone very happy. We don't always have money or things that we can give to people in need, but we can always have a kind word. Sometimes all we have to do is sit down and talk to someone who is alone or offer encouragement to someone who is sad. As you talk to people today, think about the words you will use. Are they gentle like a butterfly; or do they sting like a bee.



# prayer



God, help me to be kind in all that I say and do today. Show me how to be gentle and encouraging to others and how to be like honey to a person's soul. Let me help someone feel better today. Give me the words to speak that will show people I love them because I love You and You love me.

