

THE LINKED CHAIN

SCRIPTURE:

Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor. For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up. Furthermore, if two lie down together they keep warm, but how can one be warm alone? And if one can overpower him who is alone, two can resist him. A cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart (Ecclesiastes 4: 9-12).

MATERIALS LIST:

(1) Chain or braided rope

MAIN MESSAGE:

We need family and Christian friends to help us in our time of need and the closest friend any one can have is Jesus Christ.

SONG: "Where No One Stands Alone"

LESSON:

I remember playing the game "Red Rover" when I was a kid. The game was simple: two teams stood across the playground from one another and held hands. One team would shout "red rover, red rover send _____ right over," and the kid would leave his team to tear out across the field to try to smash through the opponents' line of linked hands. The key was to try and find the weakest link to have the best chance of success. While a somewhat violent game, it was always fun to be called to run, but there was comfort back in the line with your team.

I also remember as a kid being scared of the dark. While my brother shared a room with me, I was all the way up on the top bunk and seemed very isolated. I distinctly remember thinking that if a bad guy came in, he would defiantly look in the top bunk long before he would consider the bottom. The darkness seemed to be a physical presence and made me feel that much more alone, even though I knew my entire family was in the house with me. I would finally get enough courage to jump down and run for my parents' room to hide next to the bed.

It is no accident that we feel safe and comfortable when we are close to others. The comfort of the impenetrable wall of arms that makes up the red rover team or the safety of mom and dad's room are something each of us feels in different situations. The Bible tells us that "Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor...And if one can overpower him who is alone, two can resist him. A cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart" (Ecc. 4:9,12).

God knew we would feel lonely and need the comfort of knowing someone is there to catch us if we fall. That is why from the very beginning he created two, a man and a wife. We can see this wisdom carry over in the church when we read how the early Christians cared for one another (Acts 2:44-47). We need one another to support each other when we need help up. We also can take comfort in the fact that "there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother" (Pro 18:24).

PRAYER: THAT WE ALWAYS SURROUND OURSELVES WITH STRONG CHRISTIANS TO ENCOURAGE US.