

## FRIENDLY ADVICE

**F**riends can be a source of wisdom and good advice. When you have a problem, a good friend will listen carefully and ask you questions to help you clarify the problem and reach a solution. A good friend will not try to solve your problem or tell you what to do.

Drawing on what you know about Christian friendship, what wisdom could you offer to your friends if they make the following statements?

1. **"I don't know what to do. I'm just stupid. I studied for the test and still failed. My parents are gonna kill me."**
2. **"I bet I'm the only thirteen-year-old in the world who hasn't been kissed. Is something wrong with me?"**
3. **"I don't think I'm gonna go to church anymore. Everybody makes fun of me. Besides, it's boring."**



**T**alk with older family members about their teen years. Ask them to share with you their experience of peer pressure. Ask them if this pressure was positive or negative and how they handled it. What advice about handling peer pressure can they give you now?

## FOR MY FRIENDS

**H**ere is a prayer that you can use to give thanks to God for your friends.

*I pray to you, good and gracious Lord, for those who love me and for those I love. I pray for (names of friends).*

*It was your command and gift that we love our friends. I ask you to show your love for them, too. Love them, Lord and Giver of all love, and make them love you—heart, soul, and mind—so that they will think, speak, and do only what pleases you and is right for them. Amen.*

*From a prayer by SAINT ANSELM*