

Ethan Gerry and Matthew Brooks have been friends since the first grade. But last month, a fun day almost became a deadly one for the boys. They were playing on a foam lily pad in a pond when Ethan saw Matt's eyes roll to the top of his head. Ethan watched his friend collapse and fall into the water. Ethan says he knew Matt well enough to know that he would not play like that, so Ethan screamed to adults for help. Even though the water was deep, Ethan dove in after his friend. After 10–15 seconds, Ethan located Matt, who was lying unconscious at the bottom of the pond. Ethan managed to pull Matt to the surface and hold his head above the water until help came. Matthew's mom says she couldn't believe the courage Ethan showed when his friend needed him most. "He put his friend first above his own life [and] took that risk to make sure his friend was going to be OK," she said. "Ethan is definitely our hero."

Think About It . . .

- How did being good friends make it easier for Ethan to help Matthew?
- What are some ways that you've helped a friend? How have friends helped you?

THE BEAT

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Lesson 12



Article and activity by Rebecca Haynes Mott
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Jot It Down

Have kids form small groups (or pairs). Give each group a sheet of lined paper and a pencil. SAY: **Friends can be lifesavers in many ways! Write the word "lifesaver" down the left-hand side of your paper, one letter per line. For each letter, jot down something related to helping a friend that begins with that letter. For example, L could be "Listens to their troubles."** Give groups three minutes to work. When the time is up, have groups share their acrostics with the class. SAY: **Let's dig into God's Word and discover what it says about helping friends God's way.**

How will you help a friend God's way this week?