

## Brian's Song

*There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. Proverbs 18:24 ESV*

*A friend loves at all times and a brother is born for adversity. Proverbs 17:17*

*Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people and your God my God. Ruth 1:16 ESV*

*He who withholds kindness from a friend forsakes the fear of the Almighty. Job 6:14 ESV*

Gale Sayers and Brian Piccolo were two people with very different personalities. Gale was quiet and shy. Brian was talkative and outgoing. Although they seem unlikely friends in the beginning they formed a deep and lasting bond. Brian reached out to Gale even though Gale wasn't interested in his friendship in the beginning. Friendship is an important part of life. Sometimes we need to take a chance and reach out, even if the other person doesn't seem interested. Have you ever sought someone out to be your friend?

When Gale damaged his knee it seemed like his football career might be over. Brian set up training equipment and a workout schedule for Gale. He kept encouraging Gale until he was able to play football again. Brian let Gale know that failure was not an option.

Do you accept defeat easily or do you keep trying when things get difficult?

When Gale won the Rookie of the Year Award, he was scared to give an acceptance speech. Brian helped him write and practice what he wanted to say. Gale was so nervous that he forgot the speech and wasn't able to say much more than thank you. Sometime we all need extra encouragement.

Who encourages you when you have to do something difficult? Who do you encourage?

Brian was diagnosed with cancer. Even though he hoped to recover and return to football, the cancer kept progressing. Meanwhile Gale was given the Most Courageous Player Award and received a standing ovation. He accepted the award saying that "you flatter me by give me this award" and continued by saying that Brian Piccolo was the real man of courage. Do you know someone dealing with a tragedy courageously? How can you show that person that you care?

Proverbs 18:24 says that *"there is a friend that sticks closer than a brother."* We all hope to have friends that will be loyal and faithful to us, but more importantly we need to learn how to be the loyal friend that others need. Job 6:14 says, *"He who withholds kindness from a friend forsakes the fear of the Almighty."* God wants us to trust Him. His love for us will help us reach out to others. In loving others we are also serving Him.

When Brian died at age 26 he left behind family and friends who loved him very much. In the movie it said, "When they think of him it is not how he died, but how he lived." Brian lived a life of faithfulness and love for his wife and daughters. He was a faithful friend to Gale.

What do you think people will say about you when your life is over? What do you want them to say?

*Dear Lord, we thank You for the love and kindness that You give to us. Help us to love You with our whole hearts. Teach us how to be faithful friends to those around us. Remind us when our actions and attitudes are self-centered and show us how to change them. Help us to reach out to those around us with true and faithful friendship. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.*