

# BETTER WORDS, Better Friends

*It was one thing not to swear, but I decided to ask my friends to stop too.*

By Keira S., age 11, Utah, USA

When I was nine, I had friends who used to swear a lot. I thought if they were doing it, maybe I could too. I talked to my parents, and they said it wasn't the right thing to do. Then I prayed to Heavenly Father and felt that it wasn't right to swear.

It was one thing to not swear, but I decided to ask my friends to stop as well. It was a little bit hard to stand up to my friends, especially the ones I didn't know well. Most of my friends accepted my wish. But others said, "This is the way I talk, so if you have a problem with it, I can stop hanging out with you." That was hard at first, but then I realized they weren't my true friends.

Sometimes if you hang out with people, you eventually get used to the way they talk or act and you can forget what's right or wrong. Making the right decision when I was nine has helped me make other good decisions since then. It taught me that I could make good decisions by talking to my parents and praying. I can know what I need to do.

Even though I knew my parents' opinion was right, I decided to pray as well to be sure about what I was doing, especially when it came to not hanging out with some of my friends. No matter how old we are, Heavenly Father is always there for us. I know I can rely on Him to tell me what I need to do.

If you feel that you need to pray about something, just do it. Even if you ask your friends what their thoughts are, their opinions may not always be correct. But Heavenly Father will always help us know what the right thing to do is. ♦

