



A Friend like Carmen

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Jesus taught us to love and help each other. One way to do this is by being a good friend. This is something that Carmen does well.

However, Carmen isn't a normal friend. She is a goat. And she isn't just a normal goat. Her ears are long and fluffy like other goats, she eats plants like other goats, and she *baas* like other goats. But unlike other goats, Carmen has a special gift.

When Carmen was born, she was unable to stand or walk. To help Carmen, her owners made her a special walker. She could lie on it with her legs hanging over it and her hooves on the floor to scoot herself around.

Soon Carmen started using her walker to go on walks with her owners. This is when her owners discovered Carmen's talent for being a friend. One of

Carmen's first friends was a little boy who was afraid to talk. When he met Carmen, he smiled at her and said, "Hello, goat. I like you." Carmen replied with a "Baa!" This made the little boy smile.

Carmen made other friends on her walks, and soon her owners realized she had a gift for making people happy. They took her to classes where she learned how to be an animal therapist. Carmen and her owners started visiting children in hospitals and people in nursing homes. Carmen helped people feel happier and less lonely. She helped people smile and made lots of new friends.

Carmen isn't strong enough to walk on her own, but she has an important job to do—and that is to be a friend. ♦