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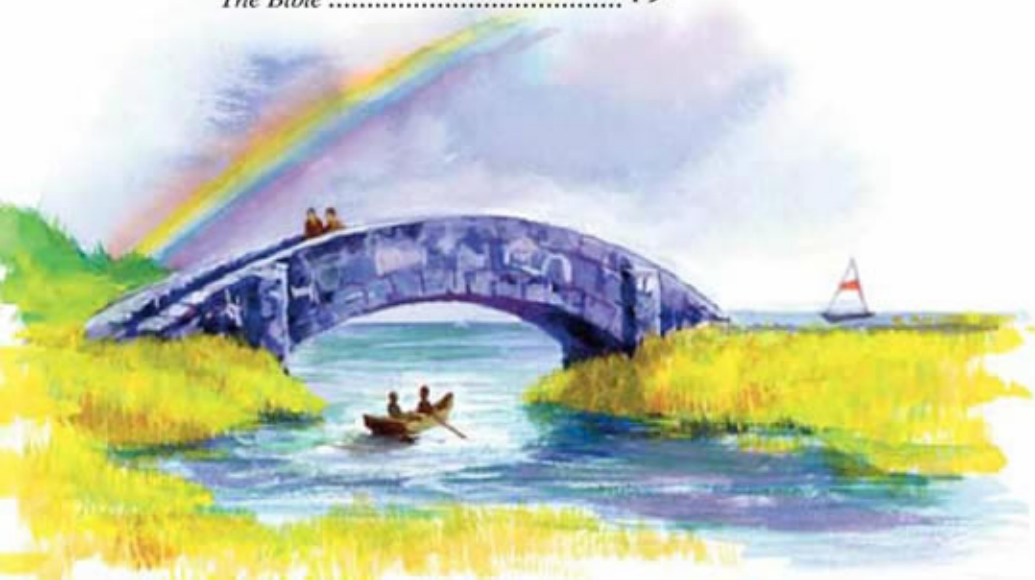
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## Damon and Pythias

Many years ago two young men lived in Greece. They were great friends. Their names were Damon and Pythias.

The ruler of the country was a cruel man. He put Pythias into prison and set a day for his death. Pythias had done nothing wrong. He had only displeased the ruler.

### Words to Watch For:

Damon (Dā'/mŭn) Pythias (Pīth'/ē/ŭs)

The father and mother of Pythias lived in another part of the country. “May I go home to tell them good-bye?” he asked.

The ruler laughed. “That is a strange thing to ask,” said he. “You would never come back.”

At that Damon stepped up. “I am his friend,” he said. “Let me stay in prison till Pythias returns.”

Then the ruler said, “Suppose Pythias does not return?”

“I will die for him,” said Damon.

This surprised the ruler very much. He put Damon in prison, and Pythias went home. Time went by, and Pythias did not return. The last day came.

So Damon was led out to be put to death. He said, “I have not lost my faith in Pythias. He will still come if he is alive.”

Just then the soldiers ran up shouting, “Here he comes! Here he comes!”

Yes, there was Pythias. He had been shipwrecked, and had reached the shore many miles away. He had walked all those miles to get back in time.

The ruler looked at the two friends. “You are both free,” said he. “I would give all I have for one such friend.” ■

### **Do You Know?**

1. Why did Pythias want to go home?
2. Why did Damon say that he would stay in prison?
3. Why was Pythias almost late returning?
4. Why did the ruler set the two friends free?

### **The Bible Says**

“A man that hath friends must show himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.”

*Proverbs 18:24*