



For our children's great friendships.

Growing up, both my husband's home and mine were always open to our friends. Often, they could be found at the kitchen table eating our Moms' cooking or just hanging out. They were friends from school, church, and work, and they were always welcome. At times, I'd come home and find any one of them chatting away with my mother; or find my best friend delivering my grandfather's favorite donuts. Great friends. Period. They were welcome, they felt it, and it showed. Today, I'm glad to say most of them remain our close friends. What a blessing it is to have God in charge of our connections.

Fast-forward 30 plus years, and the story repeats itself, now with our kids' friends, some of whom have been around since childhood. Others, more recent relationships, but equally special. A couple of them from out of town have even made our home their Miami vacay pad. Often during the summer, you can find Lauren's and Danny's friends cooling off in our pool, waiting for the afternoon round of *cafecitos*, or at our kitchen table enjoying my cooking (the couple of dishes I do make). They, in turn, show us their love by baking us cookies during their visit, bringing me flowers and travel-size Nutella packs (yum!), and even letting us have their Fastpasses to the hottest Disney ride (quite the sacrifice for this Disney crew). Like it was for us, their friends feel welcome in our home and it shows.

We enjoy having these kids around and getting to know them. We love their smiles and warm hugs. And, most importantly, we get to see what great friends they are to Lauren and Danny. We are so very grateful for the love and camaraderie among these young adults. What parent wouldn't want that for their child?

This post is dedicated to:

Kristin, Ellen, Kevin, Gabe, Andrea, Elizabeth, the rest of the Disney crew, Alena, Stephanie, Lauren C., Danny F., Dan, Noah, Crystal, Christy, Alex, Gaby, Andres, Vicky, and Juanky.

What are you thankful for today?

Until next Thursday's post...si Dios quiere.

"Your love, Jesus, is an ocean
with no shore to bound it.
And if I plunge into it, I carry
with me all the possessions
I have. You know, Lord,
what these possessions are—
the souls you have seen
fit to link with mine."

-St. Thérèse of Lisieux

"You must remember, family is often born of blood, but it doesn't depend on blood. Nor is it exclusive of friendship. Family members can be your best friends, you know. And best friends, whether or not they are related to you, can be your family."

-T.L. Stewart

"Your children are the greatest gift God will give to you, and their souls the heaviest responsibility He will place in your hands. Take time with them, teach them to have faith in God. Be a person in whom they can have faith. When you are old, nothing else you've done will have mattered as much."



-L. Wingate

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