



## Companionship – Edmund Halley

Every young student knows of Isaac Newton's famed encounter with a falling apple. Newton discovered and introduced the laws of gravity in the 1600s, which revolutionized astronomical studies. But few know that if it weren't for Edmund Halley, the world might never have learned from Newton. It was Halley who challenged Newton to think through his original notions. Halley corrected Newton's mathematical errors and prepared geometrical figures to support his discoveries. Halley coaxed the hesitant Newton to write his great work, Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy. Halley edited and supervised the publication, and actually financed its printing even though Newton was wealthier and easily could have afforded the printing costs.

Historians call it one of the most selfless examples in the annals of science. Newton began almost immediately to reap the rewards of prominence; Halley received little credit. He did use the principles to predict the orbit and return of the comet that would later bear his name, but only AFTER his death did he receive any acclaim. And because the comet only returns every seventy-six years, the notice is rather infrequent. Halley remained a devoted scientist who didn't care who received the credit as long as the cause was being advanced.

Source: C.S. Kirkendall, Jr.

Edmund Halley took his friendship with Isaac Newton to heart and supported Newton anyway that he could. We have an opportunity to be a friend like that.

### Scripture

Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

### Discovery Questions

1. "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work" (verse 9). Can you think of a time when a friend stepped up to help you with a difficult project? Describe how you felt.

2. "Pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up" (verse 10). What does this verse mean to you?
3. Friendship has so many rewards. Think of a friend that you have. List the rewards that you have received from that friendship.
4. "A cord of three is not quickly broken" (verse 12). Think on how your love for Jesus has strengthened a friendship.

### Journaling

Which verse spoke most powerfully to me? Why?

**Prayer:** Spend some time in prayer conversing with your God. Use the following ideas as a potential guide to your prayer time.

- Lord, I thank you for the friends that You have put in my life; they have truly been a blessing to me. I ask that I be able to be a blessing to them.
- Father, if there is someone I know that needs my friendship, please point them out to me. Use me to strengthen them.
- Dear Jesus, I thank you for Your love and friendship even when I am not worthy of such a gift. Your love strengthens and uplifts me.
- Lord, remind me often of my friends and their needs. May I put them before my own needs and desires.