**THE BUNDLE OF STICKS**

NARRATOR  
Lying on his deathbed, Father calls his children to him.  
He has one last life lesson to teach.

FATHER  
*(Weakly)*Come here, my children.  
I have one more bit of advice to give before I must leave you.

SONS  
*(Respectfully)*We're here, Father, ready to listen and learn.

FATHER  
My good Sons, I offer you this bundle of sticks.  
  
ELDEST SON  
Father, a common bundle of sticks is of no importance to us!  
  
FATHER  
Perhaps. One of you pick up the bundle and break it for for me.  
  
ELDEST SON  
Yes, Father. I can surely do that simple task for you.  
  
NARRATOR  
The muscular boy grasps the collection of sticks and attempts  
to bend and break the stubborn bundle.  
  
ELDEST SON  
*(Ashamed)*Sorry, Father, I am unable to do as you ask.  
Even using all my might, I can't do it. It's impossible!  
  
SECOND SON  
I'm sure I can do it. Let me break the bundle!  
*(Grunts with the effort, gives up in disgust)*YOUNGEST SON  
Maybe I have the right technique. Give me a turn!  
*(Unable to lift the bundle he tries a karate chop)*NARRATOR  
All three boys are distressed because they cannot fulfill this  
one simple request made by Father.  
  
FATHER  
All of you failed to do the job on your own.  
Now, untie the bundle and each of you take a single stick.  
  
NARRATOR  
The three obedient youngsters followed Father's instructions once more.  
  
FATHER  
*(Confidently)*Now, break the sticks!  
  
NARRATOR  
To their great surprise and relief, each boy snaps his stick with ease.  
  
SONS  
Incredible! That way is really easy!  
  
FATHER  
Remember, trying to accomplish something on your own can be difficult.  
Working together, my Sons, you are powerful!  
  
NARRATOR  
Moral of the story: Unity gives strength.