

**4 WEEKLY
DEVOS ON
FRIENDSHIP**

**BLOCK
PARTY**

EVERYONE'S INVITED

SEPTEMBER

2020



EBIC PRETEEN

WEEK 1: FRIENDSHIP

WEEK 1: KNOWING A GOOD FRIEND & *THE* BEST FRIEND

But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of His resurrection and participation in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

Philippians 3:7-11

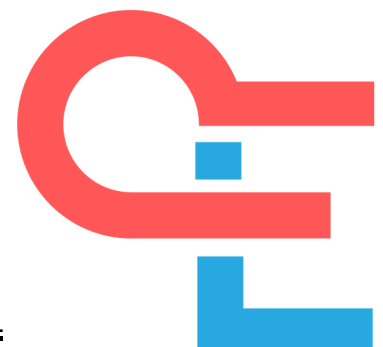
When you think about the friends you know and have now, do you count Jesus as one of them? We all want to build a circle of good friends who we can get to know deeply and trust completely, but we need to realize the BEST way to learn how to do this is to learn what it means to truly get to KNOW JESUS. When we count Him as our best friend, He will help us find the right friends that will push us on to become all He wants us to be!

- PRAY, this week that your ultimate goal would not just be to “know about” Jesus, but to truly KNOW Jesus as your best friend.
- JOURNAL, as you read this verse throughout the week, write down what it means to you to “KNOW” Jesus, and what you can do to get to know Him better!



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WEEK 2: FRIENDSHIP

▲ WEEK 2: SHOW YOUR FRIENDS THEY'RE IMPORTANT

Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

Ephesians 4:31-32

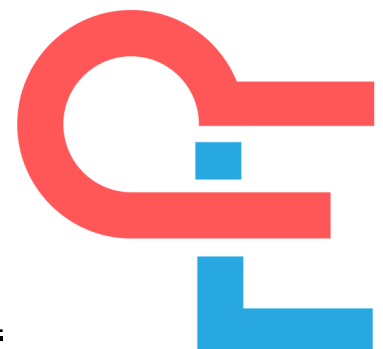
Some friendships come natural and easy, which is great, but at some point in time all of our friendships will be tested and we are going to need to be ready to step up to the plate to show our commitment and loyalty to the friends we value the most. Friendships play a vital role in your spiritual journey, they can help keep you on a good path or push you off it. If you want to build the kind of friendships that God desires you to have, then you are going to have to take some action!

- PRAY**, about specific friends this week! Try to come up with a different friend for each day of the week or maybe 3-4 that you can pray for twice this week!
- JOURNAL**, about specific goals for your friendships. Are there ones you need to let go? Ones you wish were stronger? How is God leading you to be a better friend?



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WEEK 3: FRIENDSHIP

WEEK 3: ENCOURAGEMENT OF FRIENDS IS POWERFUL

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from His love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.

Philippians 2:1-5

Friendships at their best bring peace and joy into our lives, but at their worst they can bring chaos, tension, and drama. We need to learn how to be humble with our friends, so that we can model for them what it means to lift them up and care about them with a selfless love, like Jesus has for us. When a circle of friends figures this out, they can pull each other out of dark times and push each other to do amazing things for God and for the world!

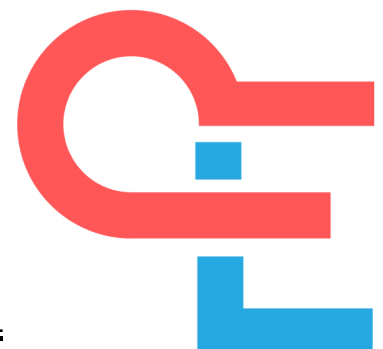
PRAY, that God would give you **BOLDNESS** and **AWARENESS** so that you can speak encouraging words to your friends when they need it the most!

JOURNAL, as you read Philippians 2:1-5 this week, are their friends of yours who could use encouragement right now? What is going on in your closest friends' lives right now? Do you have creative ideas of how you can be encouraging?



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WEEK 4: FRIENDSHIP

WEEK 4: FIND FRIENDSHIPS FOCUSED ON PURITY & GOD

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

Psalm 51:10-11

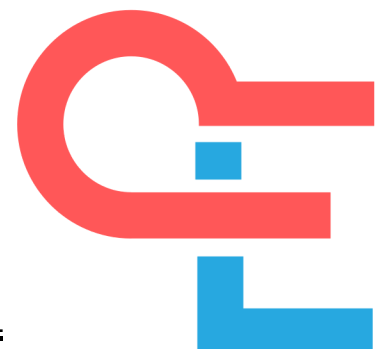
This Psalm is a prayer of David after he has been called out by the prophet Nathan for making a HUGE mistake. David got distracted, lost His focus and it took a friend like Nathan to call him on it before David was able to confess to God and turn his life around. This heartfelt prayer is a cry to God for mercy, but it is also a call to God for His great direction. We need friendships that helps us stay focused on the right things, and that can call us back to God when we lose our focus.

- PRAY**, these verses everyday this week and ask God to help you stay focused on Him and His ways!
- JOURNAL**, In what ways have YOU been losing focus? Has your drifting impacted any of your friends? Are their friends you need to help re-focus on Jesus? Which of your friends can you trust to help you re-focus? How can you talk with friends about this stuff?



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