



FRIENDSHIP

Introductory discussion questions

- What is the real meaning of friendship?
- What are the elements of a good friendship?
- What are the benefits and risks of having a best friend?
- What are different ways you can handle disagreements with a friend?
- How can we discover that Jesus Christ is the best friend?

What is a friend? What are the elements of a good friendship?

- **DICTIONARY:** a person whom one knows and with whom one has a bond of mutual affection
- **ABC of Friendship:**

Accepts you as you are

Believes in you

Calls you just to say Hi

Doesn't give up on you

Envisions the whole of you, even the unfinished parts

Forgives your mistakes

Gives unconditionally

Helps you

Invites you over

Just "be" with you (or Jesus lives within them)

Keeps you close at heart

Loves you for who you are

Makes a difference in your life

Never judges

Offers support

Picks you up

Quiets your fears

Raises your spirits

Says nice things to you

Tells you the truth when you need to hear it

Understands you

Values you

Walks beside you

X-plains things you don't understand

Yells when you don't listen

Zaps you back to reality

What is a friend?

- What does the Bible say?
 - “A friend loves at all times...” (Proverbs 17:17)
 - Jesus said: “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends. You are my friends if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from my father I have made known to you.” (John 15:13-15).

JOHN 15:13-15

- The extent to which one is willing to lay their life for another is a **measure of the true friendship** or love between friends.
- Friendship is higher than servant hood
- A servant obeys his master out of fear; a friend is a servant who obeys out of love.
- Ask yourself, do you obey your friends out of “love” for them? Or do you “fear” something by not obeying them?
 - Rejection
 - Not fitting in
 - Etc

Old Testament Story example – 2 Samuel 18:1-3

1 And David numbered the people who were with him, and set captains of thousands and captains of hundreds over them. 2 Then David sent out one third of the people under the hand of Joab, one third under the hand of Abishai the son of Zeruiah, Joab's brother, and one third under the hand of Ittai the Gittite. And the king said to the people, "I also will surely go out with you myself." 3 **But the people answered, "You shall not go out! For if we flee away, they will not care about us; nor if half of us die, will they care about us. But you are worth ten thousand of us now. For you are now more help to us in the city.**

Q. How can we relate this back to what Jesus said in the previous slide? Hint: 'a measure of true friendship'

A strategy to work through conflicts to make a friendship stronger

1. **Talk the situation over soon after it occurs**
2. **Resolve it the day it happens**
3. **Try to see the other person's perspective**
4. **Initiate resolution**
5. **Focus on the bigger picture**
6. **Be sensitive to the other person**
7. **Be loving in what you do**

A strategy to work through conflicts to make a friendship stronger

ROLE PLAY SCENARIO 1:

The mass at church has just finished. You usually meet up with your friend at the bottom of the steps near the car park. This week, you decide to go to the canteen and buy lollies and soft drinks. Your friend waits for you at the stairs but you don't show up because after finishing your snacks you go to Sunday school late. After waiting for 30 minutes your friend goes to Sunday school late and gets in trouble by the teacher. He is very angry/ sad with you. **How can we work out this conflict?**

A strategy to work through conflicts to make a friendship stronger

ROLE PLAY SCENARIO:

- 1. Talk the situation over soon after it occurs**
- 2. Resolve it the day it happens**
- 3. Try to see the other person's perspective**
- 4. Initiate resolution**
- 5. Focus on the bigger picture**
- 6. Be sensitive to the other person**
- 7. Be loving in what you do**

A strategy to work through conflicts to make a friendship stronger

ROLE PLAY SCENARIO 2:

You are in a Sunday school class with a number of friends before class. You get so caught up with one or two friends that you forget to talk to someone who has been sitting by themselves alone wishing you would talk to them. You later realise that this person is upset with you. **How can we work out this conflict? How can we make sure it never happens again?**

A strategy to work through conflicts to make a friendship stronger

ROLE PLAY SCENARIO:

- 1. Talk the situation over soon after it occurs**
- 2. Resolve it the day it happens**
- 3. Try to see the other person's perspective**
- 4. Initiate resolution**
- 5. Focus on the bigger picture**
- 6. Be sensitive to the other person**
- 7. Be loving in what you do**

How can we discover that Jesus Christ is the **BEST** friend

- There are a number of ways we can grow our friendship with Jesus and develop a close relationship:
 - Pray every day to God
 - Praise him and sing hymns to him
 - Pray for direction and ask for guidance on what God wants you to do
 - Read the Bible everyday and pray from the agpia
 - Make yourself available to God

If you do the above consistently over a long time you will grow closer and closer to God and find that he is the ultimate best friend

Glory be to God. Amen

