

# **FRIENDS**

**The Fabric of Life**

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and  
Tom Farrell***

Friends: The Fabric Of Life

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# CONTENTS

Introduction .....	4
How To Teach This Study .....	5
Course Objectives .....	7
Announcement Art.....	8
LESSON 1—THE BASIS OF FRIENDSHIPS .....	9
LESSON 2—THE BREAKING OF BAD FRIENDSHIPS .....	14
LESSON 3—THE BUILDING OF GOOD FRIENDSHIPS, PART 1 .....	20
LESSON 4—THE BUILDING OF GOOD FRIENDSHIPS, PART 2 .....	25
LESSON 5—BEING A FRIEND TO THE FRIENDLESS .....	30

# Introduction

# FRIENDS

Here's what some people have to say about friends:

I never have considered a difference of opinion in politics, in religion, in philosophy, as cause for withdrawing from a friend. *Thomas Jefferson*

You can make more friends in two months by becoming interested in other people than you can in two years by trying to get other people interested in you. *Dale Carnegie*

Friendship is the only cement that will ever hold the world together. *Woodrow Wilson*

A man, sir, should keep his friendship in constant repair. *Samuel Johnson*

If you think about it, a Christian's friends are eternal investments which require constant nurturing. There is no medicine to cure loneliness, no book to console the friendless, and no vacation that can ever replace the quintessential character of a true friend. Because the teen years are a very insecure and vulnerable time, teenagers need good friends. Peers can be a powerful pressure in the lives of friends either to do right or to lead them down a trail that may never wind its way back to the safety of truth.

# HOW TO TEACH THIS STUDY

*Hot Shots* are written with the firm belief that teens learn much better when they are actively involved in the learning process. Teaching does not have to be dry, boring lectures or fruitless question and answer sessions. The most remembered lessons are those that included taste and touch, humor and drama, discussion and study, video and music. Active learning uses all these elements and more. It places the student shoulder-to-shoulder with the teacher instead of twenty feet away. It brings stories to life and gives information meaning. It changes thinking, speech, behavior, and life.

The sections in each lesson have a specific function within the lesson.

The **Warm-up** is an exercise that creates a sense of togetherness and begins the meeting with a fun game or interesting discussion.

The **Bridge** introduces the subject content with a provocative illustration.

The **Content** is the explanation and application of the lesson.

The **Closing** summarizes experiences and calls for a commitment from the teens.

Different active learning styles are used to reinforce and illustrate the content, including: discussion, role play, question and answer, sight, smell, taste, video, music, and many more!

## **Before you start the study...**

1. Read the Introduction, Course Objectives, and Overview. It is important that you understand the scope of this study before you promote it.
2. Use the Announcement Art to publicize this study in the church bulletin, youth paper, or bulletin board.

## **Before each lesson...**

1. Read through the lesson and take note of the Lesson Aim, Objectives, and materials needed for active learning segments.

**ACTIVE  
LEARNING**

**BEFORE YOU  
TEACH**

2. Plan ahead to modify the lesson if necessary. Your facilities or equipment may limit you. Substitute your own ideas if necessary.

3. Each lesson is designed to be taught in 20-30 minutes. Preparation will enable you to shorten or lengthen the lesson to meet your time limit.

4. Use excitement when you teach! An excited teacher produces students who are excited about learning. If you can't get excited about an active learning segment or a warm-up, develop your own that will work with your teens.

# COURSE

# OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course the teens will:

- understand what constitutes a good friendship
- know what kind of friendships must be broken
- examine the essential elements of a good friendship
- understand friendship's foundation
- learn what is involved in befriending a stranger

## O V E R V I E W

### **Lesson 1: The Basis of Friendships**

Lesson Aim: To lay the foundation for good friendships.

Texts: 2 Corinthians 10:31; Psalm 119:63; James 4:4; Proverbs 13:20

### **Lesson 2: The Breaking of Bad Friendships**

Lesson Aim: To illustrate two types of harmful friends and what do do about them.

Texts: 1 Corinthians 6:14; 5:11; 1 Thessalonians 3:6, 14-15

### **Lesson 3: The Building of Good Friendships, Part 1**

Lesson Aim: To help teens evaluate the quality of their relationships.

Text: 1 Samuel 18:1-4

### **Lesson 4: The Building of Good Friendships, Part 2**

Lesson Aim: To further evaluate the quality of their relationships.

Texts: 1 Samuel 18:4-5; 19:2, 4; 23:16-17

### **Lesson 5: Being A Friend To The Friendless**

Lesson Aim: To teach teens how to be a friend to strangers.

Text: Acts 9

# THE BASIS OF FRIENDSHIPS

Lesson 1

Foundations are important in life. If a hurricane came through your home town, would you feel safer in a mobile home or in a house? You would probably last a little longer in the house because it has a foundation deeply rooted in the ground. The only thing to keep your relationships with others standing strong in years to come is to make sure that the foundation is secure in Christ.

**To lay the foundation for good friendships.**

**Students will:**

- know that the glory of God is the ultimate goal in friendships
- understand how friends influence their relationship with Christ
- realize the need for God to approve of their friendships
- understand that blessing depends upon their choice of friends

**1 Corinthians 10:31; Psalm 119:63; James 4:4; Proverbs 13:20**

These passages relate vital principles concerning friends that will be developed in the lesson.

**What You Need:**

- chalkboard
- chalk
- copies of "Forever Friends"
- pens or pencils

**LESSON AIM**

**OBJECTIVES**

**TEXTS**



# The Lesson

## WARM-UP

Place two chairs back-to-back in the front of the room. Have a predetermined pair of good friends come up to the front as you call them. Have them sit down and explain to the one teen that you asked his or her best friend some questions and recorded their answers. (Do this sometime during the week before you teach the lesson.) Tell them that you are going to test them by asking them the same questions.

Questions:

1. What is your friend's favorite subject?
2. What is your friend's favorite hobby?
3. What is your friend's most embarrassing moment?
4. What is her/his most annoying habit?
5. What are some of her/his pet peeves?

## BRIDGE

Although not everyone will know the answer to these questions about certain people, there are some things that should be true in every relationship as Christians.

## CONTENT

Let's look in God's Word for some timeless truths about friendships.

### **I. FRIENDSHIPS MUST GLORIFY GOD (1 CORINTHIANS 10:31).**

One of the root meanings of *glorify* is "opinion." This verse teaches that in whatever teens are involved, they must give others the right opinion about God. Teens are just a mirror of Christ as His ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:20). When others see the life of a saved teenager, they must be able to see the difference in his life through the words he uses, the things he does, and the friends he has. Since everything we do must honor and glorify God, our friendships must also.

## II. FRIENDSHIPS WITH OTHERS AFFECT MY FRIENDSHIP WITH CHRIST (JOHN 15:14; GALATIANS 1:10).

Jesus laid out for us the condition for having a spiritual friendship with Him. Those who consistently strive to please Him by keeping His commands will be called His friends. A friendship cannot be sustained with Christ if sporadic obedience is the best that is done.

Galatians 1:10 stresses that if we try to please men rather than God, then our friendship with Christ will be hurt because of our desire to please men. Paul had a spiritual friendship with Jesus and he could prove his undivided loyalty by the stripes on his back.

See also Ephesians 6:6; Colossians 3:22; 1 Thessalonians 2:4.

Say, "The Bible talks a lot about friendship. Let's use this game to look at some important references." Break your group up into two teams. Have a list of verses to look up for a sword drill. The teen who finds it first must stand up, read it, and then give the basic meaning of the verse (be lenient). If the teen reads the right verse and gives a fairly close explanation, then they may choose which square to place an *x* or *o* in for tic-tac-toe.

Sword drill verses: Prov. 18:24; 27:17; Mt. 11:19; Prov. 11:13; James 2:23; Prov. 17:9; Job 2:11; Prov. 22:24; 2 Sam. 13:3; Prov. 17:17; 27:6 (also use the ones provided above)

## III. FRIENDSHIPS MUST MEET GOD'S APPROVAL (PSALM 119:63, see also PROVERBS 1:7; 8:13; 9:10).

### A. Do they fear God?

Those who fear God have a good grasp of God's holiness and His hatred of sin based on His pure character. To have friends who do not have this sacred respect for a holy and powerful God only means that you do not fear God as you ought to. Teens should not be terrified by God—afraid to pray or serve Him. Rather, they should be very careful about their choices in lifestyle and be sure to please Him in every aspect of life.

The nation of Israel was instructed to fear God and teach their children to fear the Lord (Deuteronomy 4:10). A practical expression of their fear was seen in how well they kept the commands of God.

### GAME

**What you need: chalk and chalkboard**



## B. Do they walk in fellowship?

Do the friends you have live a consistent daily pattern of honoring God in their life? The key word is *walking*, which signifies a steady, consistent habit. We are to walk after Christ which means we follow the example or the footprints He left behind in the pages of Scripture. Living life by the Book cannot be stressed enough if a teen wants to have a good relationship with another person.

See also Ephesians 4:17; Colossians 2:6.

### CASE STUDY

Read this to the teens and then ask them to respond.

“I have a good friend who goes to school with me. We like hanging out together in the hall between classes and at lunch. He is not saved, but he is a really great person. He doesn’t smoke, drink, or curse. I know Christ ate with sinners and spent time with them. Is this friendship honoring to God?”



## IV. WRONG FRIENDSHIPS COURT DISASTER (1 CORINTHIANS 15:33; JAMES 4:4).

We see an example of this through Solomon’s son. Rehoboam acted foolishly when he discarded the advice of his elders and decided to listen to the bad counsel of his friends. This affected the course of history as the kingdom was divided and Israel rebelled against the house of David (1 Kings 12:1-20).

## V. RIGHT FRIENDSHIPS BRING BLESSING (PROVERBS 13:20).

This verse illustrates the fact that you become like your friends. If they are wise in a biblical sense, then you will grow to be wise also.

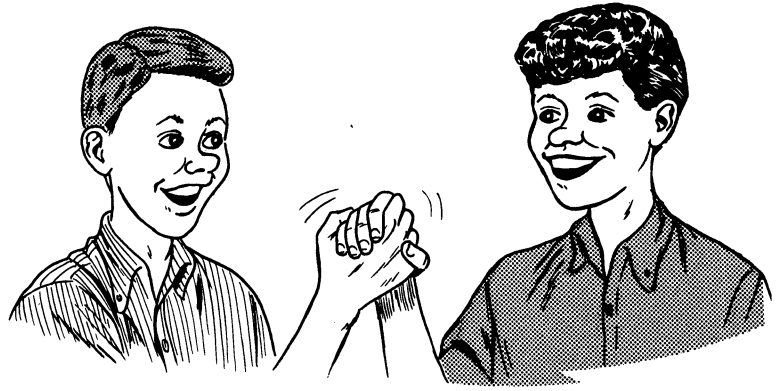
The blessing that came on David and Jonathan was evident as they stayed very close with each other and the Lord. David was granted the throne and Jonathan found favor in the eyes of the Lord as the friend of David.

### CLOSING

**What you need: copies of “Forever Friends,” pens or pencils**

Give each teen a copy of “Forever Friends” and have them answer the questions.

# FOREVER FRIENDS



## Read Ruth 1:16-17,22

Who are the friends in this passage? \_\_\_\_\_

What impressed you most about their friendship? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name a way in which you can be loyal to your friend. \_\_\_\_\_

## Read 2 Kings 10:15-17

Who were the friends in this passage? \_\_\_\_\_

Was their friendship honoring to God? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What quality of friendship was shown between them? \_\_\_\_\_

## Read Daniel 2:48-49

What did Daniel do for his friends? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you think Daniel's power affected his friendships? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_