

# Friendship

Spend some time reflecting on the message from the All-In Gathering on Sunday:

We we explored friendship, being a good friend, and how we can be friends with Jesus (**John 15:12-15**). Many of the same things apply in our earthly friendships and our friendship with Jesus: spending time together, talking & listening to one another.

Reflective Questions:

- What did God say?
- What are you going to do?
- Who do you need to help you?

Then move on to these prompts about friendship and explore the scriptures & principles together.

## Friendship in the Bible

### 1. Loving at All Times

- **Scripture:** Proverbs 17:17 - *"A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity."*
  - **Prompt for participants:** How do you show loyalty and love to friends in hard times?
  - **Suggested guiding points / answers:**
    - Listening without judgment
    - Encouraging them during struggles
    - Being consistent, not only showing up for fun moments
  - **Leader tip:** Emphasize that love in friendship is active, not just emotional.
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## 2. Standing Up for Friends

- **Scripture:** 1 Samuel 20:16-17, 30-34 (Jonathan protects David).
  - **Prompt:** How can we defend or support friends when it's risky or inconvenient?
  - **Suggested answers:**
    - Speaking up for them when they are treated unfairly
    - Offering protection or support even if it's uncomfortable
    - Sacrificing personal comfort for their wellbeing
  - **Leader tip:** Encourage real-life examples participants might feel comfortable sharing.
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## 3. Putting Others First

- **Scripture:** John 15:12-15 - *"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."*
  - **Prompt:** What practical ways can we put friends' needs ahead of our own?
  - **Suggested answers:**
    - Prioritizing time for a friend in need
    - Forgiving quickly when hurt
    - Helping in tangible ways (errands, support, encouragement)
  - **Leader tip:** Highlight that "laying down life" doesn't have to be literal; small sacrifices matter.
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## 4. Being Present in Hard Times

- **Scripture:** Job 2:11-13 (friends sit in silence).
- **Prompt:** How can you "just be there" for a friend in difficulty?
- **Suggested answers:**
  - Offering a listening ear
  - Spending time quietly with them
  - Praying for them without trying to fix everything

- **Leader tip:** Remind participants that sometimes silence is more powerful than advice.
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## 5. Helping Each Other Up

- **Scripture:** Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 - *"Two are better than one... if either of them falls down, one can help the other up."*
  - **Prompt:** How do we encourage and strengthen our friends?
  - **Suggested answers:**
    - Mentoring or giving guidance in faith or life choices
    - Supporting them in achieving goals
    - Encouraging accountability in spiritual growth
  - **Leader tip:** Encourage participants to share practical ways they've helped or been helped.
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