



Week Six: How to Be a Better Friend – Study Guide

September 6, 2014

Do you have a friend, or friends, you know you can count on? Hopefully someone, or a couple of people, came to your mind. All of us need friends, but even more importantly, we need to be faithful friends others can count on. In this study we will focus on how to become better friends, how to forgive others when they sin against us, and how to be grateful for the people God has placed in our lives.

Where Am I Today?

- 1) Have you ever been hurt or disappointed by a friend? Were you shocked that they hurt you? Why or why not?

Into the Bible

- 2) Sin is inevitable in our lives. It's not *if* we sin—or are sinned against—but *when* sin comes in our lives. Knowing how to deal with sin will help us become better friends. Read **Luke 17:1-4** and **Colossians 3:13**. What do these verses tell us to do when a friend sins against us? What's the meaning behind Jesus saying to forgive seven times?



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- 3) Read **Luke 17:5-19**. At a quick glance, verses 5 and 6 seem a little out of place in this chapter. Why do you think these two verses are in between forgiveness and gratitude? Why do you think we always expect to be thanked when we serve others?

- 4) It's easy to hold others to different standards in how they treat us, than how we treat them. Read **Matthew 6:2** and **7:12**. What lessons can we learn from Jesus' teaching about how to treat others?

How Does This Apply?

- 5) Take a minute to think about the relationships in your life. How do you resolve conflict your life? Are you more likely to hold a grudge, or are you quick to forgive? In what ways are you tempted to make others work for your forgiveness?

- 6) Often we can't find restoration because we're relying on our feelings rather than our faith in Christ. Where in your life might you need to ask God to give you greater faith? How would "increasing your faith" change your relationships, especially the one(s) you're struggling with right now?



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- 7) Where in your life might you need to be more grateful, especially without expecting a thank you from another person? When was the last time you told someone you were thankful for them? How do you show gratitude to others?

Continue Learning on Your Own

- 8) When Jesus was here on Earth, He had friends. He had His twelve disciples whom He called His friends (**John 15:15**). He also had friends who weren't men, but women (**Luke 10:38-42**). Another important thing we can learn from Jesus and friendship is He had a few really close friends (**Matthew 17:1**), and then He had one best friend (**John 13:23, John 19:25-27, John 20:2** and **John 21:7,20**). By reading all these verses, what are some valuable lessons we can learn from Jesus about being a great friend?