

Daily Devotional: Things That Matter

Theme: Be the Friend You're Looking For

Scripture: *"The LORD God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone.'"* — Genesis 2:18a (NIV)

In yesterday's devotional, we talked about the importance of **choosing the right kind of friends**—those who build you up spiritually, stand by you in tough times, and make you better. Today, we're flipping the question:

How do I find a great friend?

Maybe the problem in finding new friends is because **we don't know how to be a good friend**. Friendships don't just appear—they grow. They're planted in love, watered with loyalty, and cultivated with consistency. If we want great people in our circle, we have to look inward and ask: *Would I want to be friends with me?*

Here's a simple but powerful truth:

To find a great friend, you must BE a great friend.

1. Be NICE.

"A cheerful look brings joy to the heart..." — Proverbs 15:30 (NLT)

Kindness matters. Joy is contagious. Sometimes, just your smile, your presence, or your encouragement can lift someone's spirit and change their entire day.

Did you know it takes **43 muscles to frown** but only **17 muscles to smile**? God wired us to share joy more easily than sorrow. A smile is a small gesture that can have a big impact—it's a gift that costs nothing but can mean everything.

Always be nice to everyone. Even those who may not be the best influences should still be treated with love, dignity, and respect. Remember, you are an **ambassador for Christ** everywhere you go—how you treat others reflects the heart of Jesus.

But also remember what we talked about yesterday: **choose your close friends wisely**. If someone consistently brings you down, gossips, or leads you away from your walk with God, don't just cut them off harshly—stay friendly, stay kind, but create healthy distance. Not everyone belongs in your inner circle.

2. Ask GOOD QUESTIONS and be a GOOD LISTENER.

“Don’t just think about your own affairs, but be interested in others, too...” — Philippians 2:4 (TLB)

Friendship isn't just about talking—it's about *listening*. Most people are longing for someone who genuinely cares. Ask your friends how they're really doing, and listen not just with your ears but with your heart. You might be the only one who truly *hears* them.

3. Be LOYAL.

“There are ‘friends’ who pretend to be friends, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.” — Proverbs 18:24 (TLB)

Loyalty is a rare quality these days. But a godly friend doesn't walk away when things get messy. A godly friend:

- **Shows up** when everyone else steps back.
- **Refuses to gossip** and protects their friend's name behind their back.
- **Speaks the truth in love** even when it's hard, because they care more about their friend's soul than their own comfort.

4. LOVE HARD.

“Therefore, accept each other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given glory.” — Romans 15:7 (NLT)

Jesus didn't love us halfway—He gave His all. That's the kind of love we're called to show to others. Real friendship is rooted in grace, forgiveness, and selfless love. It's not always easy, but it's powerful.

True friends don't just walk beside us in the good times—they *carry us* when we can't walk ourselves.

Let's Get Real: Who's Walking With You?

Do you have some friends that you can talk to about God?

People who won't be weirded out when you bring up prayer, church, or Scripture—but instead *lean in* and say, “Let's talk more about that”? Those are the folks who can help you grow spiritually.

Here's the thing: we're all sinners. We're all at different stages of our walk with Jesus. You don't have to find perfect people—just people who are walking in the same direction.

People with hearts set on Jesus, even if they stumble sometimes.

It makes me think about something my mom used to say:

“Stay on the clear path. You don’t always have to turn off onto the unknown dirt road.”

When you surround yourself with people who build you up and have your back in life, staying on that path becomes easier. Find those people. Be that person. And keep walking in the light.

Prayer:

Lord, help me not only to seek godly friendships but to *be* a godly friend. Teach me how to love like You do—to be kind, loyal, honest, and compassionate. Help me represent You well in every relationship, even when I need to set boundaries. Surround me with friends who walk the same path of faith so that we may strengthen each other. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Discussion Questions:

- Do I bring joy and kindness into my friendships, or do I sometimes bring stress or negativity?
- Am I more focused on being heard, or on truly listening to others?
- Do I have friends I can talk to about God? If not, where can I find them?
- Who in my life needs a deeper expression of love, loyalty, or support from me today?

Tomorrow: Spiritually Building Friendships

We’ll dive into what it means to be a friend who lifts others up in faith and keeps Christ at the center of the relationship. Stay tuned!