

# HOW TO FIND FRIENDS

## The Cure for Loneliness: Part 1

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*“GOD said, “It’s not good for the Man to be alone; I’ll make him a helper, a companion.””  
(Genesis 2:18, The Message)*

### Two Kinds of Friends

- **CASUAL** friends are the result of chance.
- **CLOSE** friends are the result of choice.

*“The righteous choose their friends carefully...” (Proverbs 12:26, NIV)*

*“...Associating with bad people will ruin decent people.” (1 Corinthians 15:33, GW)*

*“Whoever walks with wise people will be wise but whoever associates with fools will suffer.”  
(Proverbs 13:20, GW)*

## HOW TO MAKE FRIENDS

*“A wise person wins friends.” (Proverbs 11:30b, NLT)*

1. Be more **INTERESTED** than interesting.

*“Don’t be selfish; don’t try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don’t look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.”  
(Philippians 2:3–4, NLT)*

2. Be more **COMPLIMENTARY** than critical.

*“Therefore, encourage each other and strengthen one another as you are doing.” (1  
Thessalonians 5:11, GW)*

3. Be more **ATTENTIVE** than talkative.

*“Spouting off before listening to the facts is both shameful and foolish.” (Proverbs 18:13,  
NLT)*

*“Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to  
speak, and slow to get angry.” (James 1:19, NLT)*

**4. Be more THOUGHTFUL than pitiful.**

*“Be good friends who love deeply; practice playing second fiddle.” (Romans 12:10, The Message)*

*“All of you are plotting against me, and no one informed me when my son entered into a loyalty pledge with Jesse’s son. No one felt sorry for me and informed me that my son has encouraged my servant David...” (1 Samuel 22:8, GW)*

**5. Be more SMILEY than mopey.**

*“A glad heart makes a happy face; a broken heart crushes the spirit.” (Proverbs 15:13, NLT)*

*“When they were discouraged, I smiled at them. My look of approval was precious to them.” (Job 29:24, NLT)*

**6. Be more FORGIVING than fault-finding.**

*“Love prospers when a fault is forgiven, but dwelling on it separates close friends.” (Proverbs 17:9, NLT)*

*“Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love makes up for many of your faults.” (1 Peter 4:8, The Living Bible)*

**7. Be more SYMPATHETIC than apathetic.**

*“Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!” (Ecclesiastes 4:9–10, NIV84)*

*“A sweet friendship refreshes the soul.” (Proverbs 27:9b, The Message)*

**8. Be more FAITHFUL than fair-weathered.**

*“In trouble like this I need loyal friends— whether I’ve forsaken God or not.” (Job 6:14, GNB)*

*“Some friends don’t help, but a true friend is closer than your own family.” (Proverbs 18:24, CEV)*

*“A true friend is always loyal.” (Proverbs 17:17a, The Living Bible)*

*“Many will say they are loyal friends, but who can find one who is truly reliable?” (Proverbs 20:6, NLT)*

**9. Be more PRAYERFUL than prayed-for.**

*“...my eyes pour out tears to God. I want someone to plead with God for me, as one pleads for a friend.” (Job 16:20–21, GNB)*

*“Then, after Job had prayed for his three friends, the LORD made him prosperous again and gave him twice as much as he had had before.” (Job 42:10, GNB)*

*“Friends, please pray for us.” (1 Thessalonians 5:25, CEV)*

**10. Be more CONTENT than complaining.**

*“So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.” (Romans 5:11, NLT)*

**BOTTOM LINE:**  
**BE THE FRIEND I WISH I HAD.**

**ACTION STEPS**

Friendship Reading Plan  
HOST a group!