

LIFE GROUP GUIDE – Week Beginning Sunday 4th October 2026

KEY SCRIPTURES – John 15:9-17

This Week's BIG IDEA

Friends matter. The TV programme Friends which premiered over 30 years ago has been ever popular across three decades and at least two generations. This tale of 6 often dysfunctional individuals has tapped into one of our core needs. The need to have friends, to belong, to be part of a group. This should not surprise us as believers. We know from scripture that we were created out of the community of the godhead to live in community – God declares that it is not good for man to be alone. We recognise the need for friends theologically and experientially. Loneliness is an epidemic in a crowded city like London, and we have all felt it at some point in our lives. This week let us remind ourselves of the importance of friendship and talk honestly about how we build authentic friendships and an authentically friendly community.

Focussing on God

Before discussing anything, spend a few minutes in simple worship and stillness. Encourage the group to slow down, breathe, and become aware of God's presence. Invite the Holy Spirit to help you truly **listen** — not just with your ears, but with open hearts and obedient lives. The foundation of our friendship with one another is the grace filled friendship God shows towards us.

This worship song might help:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L2XGY1AL-u4>

Missional focus

- Take some time to share any God conversations you may have had with friends recently.
- Pray for friends and family that they might discover the friendship of God.

Discipleship Discussion

Read together:

- John 15:1-17
- Luke 10:38-42
- John 11:1-3
- John 11:28-36

Use these questions to help discussion – remember it is not a quiz, there are no right answers and you don't have to complete all of them 😊

- What do we learn from these verses about the importance of friendship to Jesus?
- What other examples do you see in the gospels that express the importance of friendship and community to Jesus?
- What are the characteristics of authentic friendship?
- Why does authentic friendship matter to you?
- Why does authentic friendship matter to the gospel?
- What manageable steps could we take to deepen our friendships and to become an ever more friendly community?

Pray

Take time to pray for one another, remembering to engage the Holy Spirit and eagerly desire the prophetic.