

# Wise Friendship

## Bible Study

### Day 1: Jesus is Sensitive to His Friends

**Scriptures:** Proverbs 25:20, John 1:1-44

#### Reflection Questions:

- How does Jesus' reaction to the news of Lazarus' illness and His interactions with Mary and Martha demonstrate His sensitivity to their needs and emotions?
- Consider how Jesus stayed present with Mary and Martha through the difficult time of their brother's death. How does His presence provide a model for us in supporting others during their struggles?
- How did Jesus offer comfort and hope to Mary, Martha, and others mourning Lazarus' death without trying to be too cheerful in a time of sorrow? What can we learn from Jesus' approach to comforting hurting friends?

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, thank You for showing us how to be sensitive to the needs and emotions of our friends, to stay present through difficult times, and to offer genuine comfort. Help us to follow Your example in our relationships, providing empathy, support, and hope to those around us. May Your love guide our actions and words as we seek to be a source of comfort and strength to others. Amen.

## Day 2: Jesus' Friendship with Peter

**Scripture:** Matthew 26:69-75, John 21:15-19

### Reflection Questions:

- How does Jesus' questioning of Peter in John 21:15-19 confront Peter's earlier denial of Him? What is the significance of Jesus asking Peter three times if he loves Him? Reflect on the parallels between Peter's three denials and Jesus' three questions, considering how Jesus gently but firmly addressed Peter's failure.
- In what ways does Jesus' reinstatement of Peter demonstrate His love and forgiveness? How does this encounter restore Peter's relationship with Jesus and his sense of purpose?
  - Consider how Jesus' commands to "feed my lambs" and "tend my sheep" re-establish Peter's role among the disciples and within the early church.
- What can we learn from Peter's journey from denial to restoration about dealing with our own failures? How can Jesus' approach to Peter guide us in responding to friends who have let us down?

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, thank You for the powerful example of Your friendship with Peter. We are grateful for Your grace that confronts our sins while covering us with love and forgiveness. Help us to follow Your example in our relationships, offering restoration and hope to those who have failed us. May we always remember that Your love is greater than our shortcomings, and may we extend that same love and grace to others. Strengthen our faith and commitment to follow You, even in the face of our own failures. Amen.

### **Day 3: Jesus Calls Us His Friends**

**Scripture:** John 15:12-17

#### **Reflection Questions:**

- What does it mean to love one another as Jesus has loved us? How can we embody this kind of love in our friendships?
- Jesus says, "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends." What does it say about Jesus that he laid down his life for his friends, even though they deserted him at the cross?
  - How can we demonstrate this sacrificial love in our own friendships?
- Jesus calls His disciples friends rather than servants. What significance does this change in relationship have for how we understand friendship with Jesus and with one another?
- Do you have true, Godly friends in your life? How does Jesus' model encourage you to find a true friend and become a true friend?

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, thank You for teaching us the true meaning of friendship. Help us to love one another as You have loved us, with selflessness, sacrifice, and deep commitment. May we be willing to lay down our lives for our friends, following Your example. Transform our relationships from mere duty to genuine friendship, filled with trust, openness, and shared purpose. Guide us to bear lasting fruit in our lives and friendships, always rooted in Your love. Amen.