



SCAN ME

Jesus Is _____.



JESUS IS A FRIEND DISCUSSION GUIDE

SUMMARY:

In a nationwide survey a few years ago, Americans were asked how many truly close friends they believe they have. This survey showed the average American feels like they only have two close friends. Maybe you are blessed to have more, but this shows us that real friendship (while it is scarce) is also extremely important and powerful. Proverbs 18:24 says, "There are friends who pretend to be friends, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother." It's undoubtedly true that each of us hopes to have that kind of friend as well as to be that kind of friend. That said, there is only one person who can be a perfectly true friend 100% of the time—the Lord Jesus Christ.

Key Passage: John 15:12-17

Be sure to read this Scripture passage together before you proceed to the "Grow" section of our study.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

KNOW: Spend some time finding out how everyone's week has gone.

The questions in this section provide a guide for connectivity; feel free to approach this part of your group time organically over a meal or "connection" activity or with questions appropriate to your context.

What is something that you are thankful for this week?

What is something that is causing you stress or concern this week?

Who in your life is in need of prayer, physical help, or emotional encouragement right now?

GROW: Grow in the Lord as you engage His Word together.

In this week's text in John chapter 15, Jesus said that His friends will love one another, the same way that He loves us. This means we should love people with a self-giving, self-surrendering love. Give an example of how you've tried to love others like this.

In verse 14 of our reading, Jesus said, "You are my friends if you do what I command you." Jesus is not saying that we obey Him to become His friends; but rather that we obey Him because we are His friends. Talk about what this verse means to you.

Jesus said in John 15:16 that He chooses His friends, they don't choose Him. This means that if we have a personal relationship with God, we didn't initiate it, but He did. Knowing that God chose to be our friend, how does this understanding shift our perspective when thinking of others?

GO: Talk through ways you can put what you've learned into practice.

Friendship with Jesus is all about presence, have you experienced the presence of God in your life in seasons of pain? Talk about it.

Jesus' friendship to us should produce good fruit from us according to Galatians 5:22-23. Talk about how Jesus' relationship toward you has changed your relationship toward others.

Do you have a friend who needs to hear about the message of Jesus? Take time to pray for them and ask God to give you opportunities to share the gospel with them.



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