72 Hours to Building a Christ-Centered Friendship



Explore God's design for friendship in this 3-day study focused on cultivating Christ-centered relationships that nourish and inspire.





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Introduction

Friendships are among God's greatest gifts to us. They enrich our lives, provide support in times of need, and reflect the love of Christ. But how do we build friendships that are deeply rooted in faith and reflect God's character? This 3-day Bible study, *72 Hours to Building a Christ-Centered Friendship*, is designed to guide you through the biblical principles that shape Godhonoring relationships.

Throughout Scripture, we see numerous examples of friendship—from the bond between David and Jonathan to the close companionship of Paul and Barnabas. True friendship goes beyond shared interests; it reflects commitment, love, forgiveness, and encouragement, grounded in Jesus Christ.

As you journey through this study, you will be invited to reflect on your current friendships and consider how your actions and attitudes can foster a deeper spiritual connection. Each day focuses on a key aspect of Christ-centered friendship: Love In Action, Faithful Encouragement, and Forgiveness and Grace. May this time of reflection and scripture immersion empower you to develop friendships that not only bless your life but also glorify God. Let's embark together on this transformative 72-hour journey towards building lasting, Christ-honoring friendships.









Day 1: 💝 Love in Action









Your Verse

John 15:12 - "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you."

Supporting Scriptures

- 1 John 4:7 "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God."
- Romans 12:10 "Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves."







Devotional: Embracing Christ's Love in Our Friendships

True friendship begins with love—the kind that flows directly from God's heart. Jesus commands us to love one another just as He has loved us. This love is sacrificial, patient, kind, and unwavering. It moves beyond surface-level connections to genuine care and commitment.

When we demonstrate love in action, we mirror Christ's love in our friendships. This means being present in both joy and hardship, speaking truth with kindness, and putting the needs of others before our own. It's a continuous choice to prioritize love in how we relate to friends.

Reflect today on whether your friendships show this Christ-like love. Are you offering grace when it's hard or celebrating your friends' successes without envy? God calls us to a higher standard—a love that builds up and never fails. As you practice this love, you are planting seeds for deep, lasting friendships anchored in Christ.







Reflect and Apply

1.	How does God's love shape the way you interact with your friends?
2.	In what ways can you demonstrate sacrificial love in your current friendships?
3.	Are there moments when you struggle to love as Jesus commands? Why?
4.	What practical steps can you take to honor your friends above yourself?













Journaling Prompts

1.	Write about a time when a friend showed you sacrificial love.
2.	List three ways you can show Christ-like love to a friend this week.
3.	Reflect on any obstacles you face in loving friends fully and how to overcome them.







Prayer for Today

Lord, thank You for the perfect example of love You gave us through Jesus.

Help me to love my friends with the same generosity and kindness, even when it's challenging. Teach me to be selfless and patient, to honor others above myself, and to build friendships that glorify You. May my actions reflect Your love and draw others closer to You. In Jesus' name, Amen. \heartsuit \clubsuit

















Day 2: 🗱 Faithful Encouragement

Your Verse

1 Thessalonians 5:11 – "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."

Supporting Scriptures

- Hebrews 10:24–25 "Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds."
- Proverbs 27:17 "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."







Day 2: 🗱 Faithful Encouragement

Devotional: Building Each Other Up in Faith

Faithful encouragement is a hallmark of Christ-centered friendships. When you invest in a friend's spiritual and emotional growth, you reflect the heart of God who continually strengthens His people. Encouragement involves more than kind words—it's about uplifting, challenging, and faithfully walking alongside one another.

Paul's letter to the Thessalonians reminds believers to build each other up, especially during times of trial and doubt. Similarly, friends sharpen each other like iron, helping to shape character and faith. Think about how your words and presence can inspire a friend towards greater love and good deeds.

Today, consider how you can be a source of encouragement that helps your friends persevere and grow. Faithful encouragement fortifies friendship and roots it in mutual spiritual support.







Day 2: 🎇 Faithful Encouragement

Reflect and Apply

1.	Who in your life benefits from your encouragement?
2.	How do you respond when a friend shares struggles or doubts?
3.	In what ways can you be more intentional about building others up?
4.	What fears or doubts might hinder you from encouraging others?













Day 2: 🎇 Faithful Encouragement

Journaling Prompts

	Recall a time when someone's encouragement helped you through difficulty.
2.	Write a letter of encouragement to a friend you want to uplift.
3.	Reflect on areas where you can grow in being an encourager.







Day 2: 🗱 Faithful Encouragement

Prayer for Today

Jesus' name, Amen. 🥦 💬 🤲

Father, thank You for the gift of friendship and the power of encouragement. Help me to be a faithful friend who builds others up in love and truth. Open my eyes to ways I can speak life and hope into my friends' lives. Strengthen me to walk alongside them through challenges, reflecting Your grace and strength. May my words and actions always point them closer to You. In

















Your Verse

Colossians 3:13 – "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

Supporting Scriptures

- Ephesians 4:32 "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."
- Matthew 6:14 "For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you."







Devotional: The Power of Forgiveness in Friendship

Forgiveness and grace are essential pillars in any Christ-centered friendship. Because we are imperfect, conflicts and misunderstandings will inevitably arise. Yet, God calls us to extend grace and forgive as He has forgiven us.

Colossians reminds us to bear with one another patiently and offer forgiveness freely, not holding grudges or allowing offenses to build walls between us. Practicing forgiveness transforms friendship from fragile to resilient, reflecting the abundant mercy God pours out toward us.

Consider the freedom and healing that comes from releasing offenses and extending grace. Does your heart hold any bitterness or unresolved hurt in your friendships? Seek God's strength today to forgive fully and embrace restoration. Your willingness to forgive draws others to Christ's healing love and deepens the bond you share.







Reflect and Apply

1.	Are there any past hurts in your friendships needing forgiveness?
2.	How does God's forgiveness motivate you to forgive others?
3.	What steps can you take to practice grace more consistently?
4.	How can forgiveness build stronger and more lasting friendships?













Journaling Prompts

1.`	Write about a time God helped you forgive someone.
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2.	List ways you can show grace in difficult friendships.
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	Reflect on what forgiveness means to you and how it changes relationships.
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Prayer for Today

Lord, thank You for the forgiveness You so freely give me. Teach me to extend that same grace to my friends, even when it's difficult. Help me to release any bitterness or resentment, replacing it with kindness and compassion. Heal broken relationships and create space for restoration that honors You. May my heart reflect Your mercy and love in all my friendships. In Jesus' name, Amen. **\mathbb{Y} \mathbb{Y} \mathbb{L}







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