

Summer Love  
Week 4

Story of Jesus and Peters Friendship.

Mark 1:17

New International Version

17 "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."

**Title: I'll Be There**

**Who has had some good friends in your life? Who has had some bad friends?**

Good Friend

- A good friend is someone who knows all about you and still loves you.
- A good friend doesn't get offended when you insult them. They smile and call you something even more offensive.
- A Good friend share's their food. Best Friends eat your food.
- A good friend doesnt let you do something stupid, alone

Bad examples of friends.

- Bad friends are absent during your struggles and not invited during your success.
- Bad friends are those who lie to you about who they are.
- Bad friends date your ex - after you break up.
- Bad friends are with you today and against you tomorrow.
- Bad friends are worst then your greatest enemies.

**But we have all had good friends and bad friends through our lives. Having friends is a part of life. And it is something God desires for our lives. We were not meant to go through this life alone. We need others to help us and grow us.**

And dealing with friends can be hard. So what I want to focus on today is how we can become good friends.

**Main Point: How to be a good friend**

Listen: If we focus on being a good friend, then we will attract the right friends.

And I want to talk through the story of Peter and Jesus, and their friends through the years.

We can learn a lot.

Beginning of their friendship started with Jesus telling him to leave his current life and come follow him. And most importantly to serve him and Jesus to be able to serve Peter.

How can we be a good friend?

## 1. **Serve our friends.**

**John 15:13**

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**13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.**

Would you lay down your life for your friends?  
You would take a nerf bullet for one of your friends.

We can get it confused when we hear the word serve. For many of us it is a volunteer position, but true service, especially with our friends is a lifestyle.

**Hear: The people you say you love, should be the ones you serve the most.**

But we get friendship backwards. We want friends that serve us or do things for us, but if you look at biblical friendship it is all around serving your friends.

**Challenge: Next time you are around your friends, instead of waiting on them to ask you to do something, just start to serve them.**

Peter and Jesus story continues. Peter calls Jesus the Messiah. Jesus speaks life over peter.

**Matthew 16: 16 and 18**

**16** Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

**18** And I tell you that you are Peter,<sup>[a]</sup> and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades<sup>[b]</sup> will not overcome it.

How to be a good friend.

## 2. **Encourage them**

**1 Thessalonians 5:11**

**"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up,  
This is a big one i believe many of us struggle with.**

WE love making fun of our friends. We love making jokes and teasing. But when was the last time you spoke life over your friends.

**Encouraged them? Or have you ever.**

**Hear Me: a friendship built on sarcasm and jokes is just 2 individuals bringing death to one another.**

Bible says the power of life and death is in the tongue.

**Oh we make fun of each other. That's how I show love. Really? It is weird to be serious and encourage each other. If it is weird then, you might need to realign your view of friendship.**

- Let's be people who are encouraging one another. Speak life over our friends.
- 
- Yeah I know it is fun to make jokes and you can do that, but don't forget to encourage and speak life over your friend.
- 
- If we are just speaking death over our friends, we are not a friend, we are an enemy.

Challenge: speak life over your friends tonight. Encourage them.

- You are a great leader.
- You are a great listener.
- Thank you for always being there for me.
- You are the best friend.
- Couldn't go through this life without you.

Peter and Jesus - demonstrate their loyalty to each other.

**Matthew 26:35**

**New International Version**

**35** But Peter declared, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you." And all the other disciples said the same.

### 3. **Be loyal**

**Proverbs 17:17**

**New International Version**

**17**

**A friend loves at all times,  
and a brother is born for a time of adversity.**

This one breaks my heart because there are a lot of people who will be with you when things are going good, but when things are not going good, they are nowhere to be found.

- We need to be people who remain with their friends.
- Through the good and the bad.
- Through your mistakes and success.

Be loyal to your friends.

Do not be flaky or inconsistent.

**Hear Me: Issue with this is we try to be friends with too many people. But when you are friends with too many people, then you have too many expectations. And you can not be there for everyone.**

**My challenge.**

**Pick a few friends and commit to your friendship with them. Be loyal to them. Help them. Lift them up. Don't disappear on them.**

**Have their back. When people start talking bad about them or going behind their back, then make sure you defend them.**

Peter hurt Jesus. Disowned him. Jesus forgives Peter.

John 21: 15-16 NIV

**15** When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?"

"Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

#### 4. **Forgive**

**Funny: I will see people together as friends and then the next day. They won't be friends. They made fun of my mama. Really?**

**This generation has a hard time forgiving. I am not sure why.**

**But hear me, you are going to have to learn how to forgive. If you do not. Then you will be a lonely person. Or you will have shallow friendships because you keep bouncing from friend to friend.**

Matthew 18:21-22

New International Version

The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

**21** Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?"

**22** Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.<sup>[a]</sup>

**Challenge:**

- Forgive that person.
- Continue to be friends with them, even if they made a mistake.

Conclusion

Serve

Encourage

Loyal  
Forgive

Let me read to you; A Story of friendship

two friends Josh and Jim. in World War I, who were inseparable. They had enlisted together, trained together, were shipped overseas together and fought side-by-side in the trenches. During an attack, one of the Josh was critically wounded in a field filled with barbed wire obstacles, and he was unable to crawl back to his foxhole. The entire area was under a withering enemy crossfire, and it was suicidal to try to reach him. Yet his friend decided to try. Before he could get out of his own trench, his sergeant yanked him back inside and ordered him not to go. "It's too late. You can't do him any good and you'll only get yourself killed."

A few minutes later, the officer turned his back, and instantly the man was gone after his friend. A few minutes later, he staggered back, mortally wounded, with his friend, now dead, in his arms. The sergeant was both angry and deeply moved. "What a waste," he blurted out. "He's dead and you're dying. It just wasn't worth it."

With almost his last breath, the dying man replied, "Oh, yes, it was, Sarge. When I got to him, the only thing he said was, 'I knew you'd find me, Jim!'"

One of the true marks of a friend is that they are there when there is every reason for them not to be.

I will be there.