

# Jesus and His Friends—READ

Here are a few ways to dig deeper, read more, and learn about Jesus and his friends...

Jesus and His Friends includes a list of scriptures to explore in more detail at the end of the devotional. Some of these moments in Jesus' ministry are recorded in other Gospels, too...see if you can find them and then compare/contrast how each Gospel writer records what happened.

Read through one of the Gospels in its entirety—Matthew, Mark, Luke or John. Focus on how Jesus interacts with people.

Use other scriptures you might be studying (at church, as a family, etc.) and talk about the role of friendship in the Bible. Use that to start a conversation about the role of friends in our own lives...and how they help us connect with God.

Use a Bible search tool (online or through an app) and look up verses about friends or friendship. Talk about each one...and consider reading a larger piece of scripture around them.

Below are some additional scriptures where Jesus makes friends with people. Take a look at each one...

## Nicodemus

John 3:1-21

Nicodemus was a Pharisee, so he knew a lot about the Bible. How did Jesus help him see that faith is about more than just knowing a lot...that God is our friend?

## MATTHEW

Matthew 9:9-13

Matthew was a tax collector, so he had few if any friends. Why do you think Jesus chose him as his friend?

## BARTIMAEUS

Mark 10:46-52

Bartimaeus was blind, but he knew Jesus could heal him. What did he see that others missed about Jesus? How did his ability to see this help him?

## LAZARUS

John 11:1-44

Jesus was a friend of Lazarus before he died. How did he react to the death of his friend? What does this tell you about whether Jesus understands what we feel and experience?

## MARY, JOANNA, AND SUSANNA

Luke 8:1-3

Jesus made friends with women even though women and men did not normally spend time together outside of families. What does this tell you about how Jesus chooses friends?

# Jesus and His Friends—MAKE

## SEEDS

Bake something with seeds in it...or just make a snack with things containing seeds. As you make your food and eat it, remember the Parable of the Sower...and remember to notice Jesus so he can grow your faith!

## Friendship Bracelets

Make friendship bracelets...use colors from Jesus and His Friends, or choose your own favorites! Keep one for yourself and give others to your friends, reminding them that Jesus is their friend, too.

## BE AN AUTHOR

Write a story or poem inspired by Jesus and His Friends. Here are a few ideas to help you decide what to do...

- Rewrite the story of one of Jesus' friends in your own words and add your own illustrations.
- Write a poem about the kind of love Jesus has for his friends, including you!
- Write a fictional story about someone becoming a friend of Jesus.

## PRAY IN COLOR

Pray in color, focusing on the theme of friendship. You might choose to thank Jesus for your friends, pray for your friends, or talk to Jesus as your friend...

## PUPPET FRIENDS

Create simple puppets by drawing people and attaching them to craft sticks. Make puppets to represent the different friends of Jesus talked about in Jesus and His Friends. Act out their stories with the puppets, noticing similarities and differences between them...and remembering how Jesus loved all of them.

# Jesus and His Friends—TAKE

## FRIENDS OF JESUS

Talk about the different friends of Jesus in this devotion with your family or friends. Do you relate to one more than the others? If so, why?

## LISTEN & SING

There are lots of songs that describe Jesus as a friend.

Find a favorite—or make a soundtrack!

Listen whenever you can...and sing along, too!

## Together Time

Take one day...or even one hour...and imagine that Jesus is hanging out with you. (He is with you all the time, but this is a chance for you to remember...)

Imagine him sitting next to you...

Imagine him eating with you...

Imagine him doing your favorite activities with you...

Make a space to be with Jesus in your everyday life. He is your friend, after all!

## WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

Talk about what it would have been like to be chosen as one of Jesus' disciples. Be honest about whether you think you would have said yes, what would have scared you, and what would have excited you.

# Jesus and His Friends Word Search

Z	R	H	F	E	D	O	P	L	N	T	M	B	C	S
J	F	R	I	E	N	D	V	I	W	I	L	F	P	R
K	E	R	F	O	R	G	B	S	T	M	K	O	Z	M
J	E	B	X	A	E	J	L	L	R	E	B	R	N	A
I	P	N	M	P	R	F	T	I	Y	J	M	G	D	R
P	A	T	I	E	N	T	R	S	E	A	S	I	F	T
G	V	E	R	T	W	S	C	T	H	B	J	V	L	H
Y	T	E	A	E	D	G	B	E	N	U	E	I	I	A
Z	R	T	E	R	H	S	J	N	V	N	S	N	P	A
Y	H	U	E	F	D	A	S	F	B	A	U	G	L	H
U	S	D	Z	A	C	C	H	A	E	U	S	L	M	F
B	C	T	O	Y	W	R	J	L	F	B	N	C	S	P
C	H	O	O	S	E	I	P	T	S	E	A	H	O	A
U	O	L	W	F	B	F	N	K	E	H	V	M	W	P
T	R	E	N	M	W	I	J	N	K	L	I	F	E	J
J	L	A	F	B	H	C	N	O	X	V	B	E	R	M
B	H	E	L	O	V	E	N	W	N	D	W	S	I	U
J	E	G	Y	W	E	Y	Z	N	P	B	Z	F	K	J

FRIEND

SOWER

CHOOSE

LISTEN

TIME

KNOWN

LOVE

LIFE

SACRIFICE

PATIENT

FORGIVING

ZACCHAEUS

MARTHA

PETER

JESUS



*Leading Kids  
to Jesus*