

The background consists of several overlapping rectangular blocks in muted colors: sage green, taupe, light beige, and dark olive. Overlaid on these are four circles of different colors: a large taupe circle at the top left, a small sage green circle in the center, a medium lavender circle to the left of the center, and a large dark olive circle at the bottom right.

Jesus

and

His

Friends

Jesus and His Friends

by
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Leading Kids to Jesus
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When Jesus was a living, breathing human being,
he had friends just like you have friends.
The Bible tells us he had a special group of friends
we call disciples, which means they wanted
to follow Jesus and learn from him.

One day, Jesus and his disciples
were on the Sea of Galilee and a big storm hit.
They started freaking out,
but Jesus was sleeping.
Finally, they woke Jesus and asked him to help.
Jesus just stood up and told the wind and the waves to stop.

And they did.

Jesus' friends realized something in that moment.
Jesus was more than a nice guy
who knew lots of stuff about God.
This guy...
had to BE God.

They noticed Jesus.

Obviously, they had an advantage we don't have.
They could see Jesus, literally, with their eyes.
And we can't do that.
But the truth is that lots of people
at that time could see Jesus, literally, with their eyes...

and they never noticed him.



They never saw anything unusual about Jesus.
He was just another guy.
But Jesus' friends – his twelve disciples and lots of others
who met him during his earthly lifetime – truly noticed Jesus.

They saw who he was and what he could do.

They understood that Jesus was God almighty...
and he was also a friend like no other.

So why did some people notice Jesus and others didn't?

Well, some people missed Jesus because they did not
understand Him. He just seemed like a crazy guy who
told weird stories and did some tricks.

Other people missed Jesus because their so-called friends
convinced them not to listen to Jesus. They heard him
and wanted to know more, but as soon as their friends
asked a question they could not answer, they doubted
Jesus and forgot about him.

And still other people missed Jesus because they were too busy.
They didn't take time to listen to what Jesus had to say...
or notice the many wonderful things he was doing.

Of course, Jesus was hardly surprised by this.
He even explained it to his friends in a story called
"The Parable of the Sower."



And in this story, he compares his message to seeds
that a farmer – or sower – would scatter everywhere.

Some, he said, would fall on the hard dirt path
and never even sprout.
(These are like the people who just thought Jesus was crazy...)

Some of the seeds would sprout up quickly
but get scorched in the sun.
(These are the ones with the not-so-helpful friends...)

Other seeds would grow up surrounded by weeds
that would eventually choke them.
(These are the people who were too busy...)

But of course, there were seeds that fell on good soil.
These seeds grew into healthy plants,
plants that produced their own seeds,
and produced new plants.

These seeds, of course, are the people who noticed Jesus.
They heard his words and believed every one of them.
They saw what he did and were amazed.

They understood who he was...
and they wanted to follow him,
to spend time with him,
to understand him,
to know him.

So, you might be wondering...
how do we do that when Jesus is not
physically walking around on earth anymore?

Well, it starts with thinking of Jesus as our friend.

Too often, we think of Jesus as something else...
as someone important who lived a long time ago...
or as someone in heaven, far away.

But while Jesus IS someone important who lived a long time ago...
And he IS in heaven, far away...
He is also our friend who is with us...right here, right now.

How do we know that Jesus thinks of us as friends?
Well...this is what he once said to his disciples...

You are my friends
if you do what I command.
I no longer call you slaves,
because a master doesn't
confide in his slaves.
Now you are my friends,
since I have told you
everything the Father told me.
You didn't choose me.
I chose you.

John 15:14-16