

Week Eleven: “**Becoming Best Friends With God**”
Day One: “**From Servants to Friends**”

Read: John 15:14-16 (Freedom in Christ Bible p. 1222)

Read: *Purpose- Driven Life* p. 85- middle of 87

Reflect: Who is your best friend? What makes this relationship so important and meaningful to you?

Dig: What is the main image that is being used in this chapter? See verses 1-7.

How does a true friend handle the truth? See verse 2.

According to verse 14, how do we become friends of God?

According to verse 15, what is the main difference between a servant and a friend?

In *Purpose- Driven Life*, we read of two ways in which the word “friend” is used in other places in scripture. What are those two ways?

Apply: Ask God for humble obedience to him today so that you may deepen your friendship with him.

Week Eleven: “**Becoming Best Friends With God**”
Day Two: “**Through Constant Conversation**”

Read: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-22 (Freedom in Christ Bible p. 1387)

Read: *Purpose -Driven Life* pp. 87-89

Reflect: How often are you aware of God’s presence through the day?
What helps you remember that he is there?

Dig: How many commands are there in these few verses?

A command precedes and then follows the command to “pray continually.” What might these two commands have to do with constant prayer?

According to the reading in *Purpose -Driven Life* , is continual prayer a gift or personality style or is it more of a habit or skill that anyone can develop?

What does this skill have to do with memorizing scripture?

What phrase could you use that might become “your phrase” to help you with the skill of constant prayer?

Apply: Read Psalm 23 and choose one phrase. Commit it to memory and use it for your “constant prayer” today.

Week Eleven: “**Becoming Best Friends With God**”
Day Three: “**Through Continual Meditation**”

Read: Psalm 119: 1-16 (Freedom in Christ Bible p. 670)

Read: *Purpose -Driven Life* pp. 90-91

Reflect: In the battle for your mind and heart, what thoughts (pride, lust, anxiety, desire for riches) are keeping you from living life in freedom and friendship with God?

Dig: In verse 10 we have a thought expressed in the first line which is the ideal and then the second line expresses our human reality. How does this work out in your life?

What does it mean to “hide God’s word in your heart”?

Compare this thought in verse 11 with Psalm 1:1-2 (p. 591). What did you learn?

With regard to God’s law (way of life) what verbs are used to describe our heart’s attitude toward God’s way?

Apply: Using the illustration of the coffee pot and ice cube (see commentary on p. 670), what is God telling you about your thought life?

Conclude by asking God to give you a heart to memorize scripture and thus defeat sin in your life.

Week Eleven: “**Becoming Best Friends With God**”
Day Four: “**A New Relationship: Children**”

Read: Galatians 4:1-7 (Freedom in Christ Bible p. 1348)

Read: *Purpose- Driven Life* p. 91

Reflect: Remember the times when you were transitioning from childhood into adulthood? It was hard to "act like an adult" when you often did not feel like one. What did you have to "tell yourself" in such situations? How did you gradually begin to act like an adult? What does this experience have to do with the passage from Galatians?

Dig: What are our "full rights as sons (and daughters)"? Look up these passages as cross-references and see if you can piece more of the picture together. In other words, after each scripture, write out what you might consider "rights" or privileges God gives us because we are his children:

Romans 8:23-27 (p. 1290):

John 15:15-16 (p. 1222):

I John 4:4-6 (p. 1468):

Apply: Our lesson today states, "As believers we are not trying to become children of God; we already are children of God- becoming like Christ." Compose a prayer based on the fact that you are already a child of God becoming more like Christ. Thank him that you are considered both children and friends.

Week Eleven: **“Becoming Best Friends With God”**
Day Five: **“Lectio Divina”**

Using the “Lectio Divina” method of Bible study (see page 3 of this booklet), **meditate on this scripture:**

“Friendship with God is reserved for those who reverence him.” Psalm 14a (Living Bible)

Lectio divina (a Latin expression which means Sacred reading) is done in three stages:

- reading: you read the passage slowly and reverentially, allowing the words to sink into your consciousness; after you have memorized the text, write down one word which strikes you and draws your attention and note why you chose that word.
- meditation: you allow the passage to stir up memories within you, so that you recognize in it your own experience or that of people who have touched your life; write down memories of events or conversations or other scripture passages
- prayer: you allow the meditation to lead you to prayer - thanksgiving, humility and petition. Write out a prayer based on the passage.