

Week Twelve: “**Developing Your Friendship with God**”
Day One: “**I Must Choose to Be Honest With God**”

Read: Exodus 33:12-17 (Freedom in Christ Bible p. 99)

Read: *Purpose-Driven Life* pp. 92-top of 94

Reflect: How honest are your prayers to God?
Is it OK to get angry with God?

Dig: What are Moses’ various complaints as listed in verses 12-13?

What do you think of God’s answer in verse 14?

According to verse 17, what is God’s reaction to Moses’ honesty in prayer?

Compare these passages with Exodus 33. What do these passages add to your understanding of honest prayer?

Jeremiah 20:7 (Freedom in Christ Bible p. 852)

Ruth 1:20 (Freedom in Christ Bible p. 290)

Apply: Since releasing your resentment toward God and revealing your feeling is the first step to healing, as so many people in the Bible did, tell God exactly how you feel.

Week Twelve: **“Developing Your Friendship with God”**
Day Two: **“Obey God in Faith”**

Read: John 15:9-14 (Freedom in Christ Bible p. 1222)

Read: *Purpose- Driven Life* section entitled “I must choose to obey God in faith.” (pp. 95-96)

Reflect: Why do you obey God?

Do you like to think of yourself as a submissive person? Why or why not?

Dig: What is the command of verse 9?

How can that command be fulfilled? See verse 10.

What is the motivation of that command? See verse 11.

What is the way that we obey that command? See verse 12.

How does this section of John compare with what Jesus said in Matthew 22:36-40 (Freedom in Christ Bible p. 1110)?

Apply: Since God is pleased by “the little things that we do out of loving obedience,” what “little thing” can you do today that would show love to another and thus love to God....and increase your friendship with God?

Week Twelve: **“Developing Your Friendship with God”**
Day Three: **“I Must Choose to Value What God Values”**

Read: 2 Corinthians 11:1-6 (Freedom in Christ Bible p. 1339)

Read: *Purpose-Driven Life* section entitled “I must choose to value what God values.”
(p. 96)

Reflect: What things do you value that your best friends also value?

Dig: What is the image that Paul uses in verse 2 of this chapter to show us how God feels about us?

What would it mean to be a “pure virgin” in your relationship with God?

Why does Paul feel so strongly about the people he is serving? How is his passion tied to God’s heart?

According to verse 4, what is it that Paul preaches?

Apply: Since “friends of God tell their friends about God,” who can you tell about God today?

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Day Four: “Desiring Friendship with God More Than Anything Else”

Read: Psalm 27 (Freedom in Christ Bible p. 608)

Read: *Purpose-Driven Life* section entitled “I must desire friendship with God more than anything else.” (p. 96)

Reflect: What is the difference between seeing and savoring God?

Why is desiring God and His presence so important to a fulfilled life?

Dig: As you carefully read Psalm 27, answer these questions:
What is the “one thing” that is sought in verse 4?

What is the reason given for this desire? See verses 5-6.

What is the desire of the heart in verse 8?

How will this desire be fulfilled at the end of time? See Revelation 22:4 (Freedom in Christ Bible p. 1503).

Apply: How would your heart change if it wanted God so deeply? Ask God for that changed heart.

Week Twelve: **“Developing Your Friendship with God”**
Day Five: **“Lectio Divina”**

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

“Draw close to God , and God will draw close to you.” James 4:8a

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.