

**Friends**

*Begin with PRAYER. Then READ through the Bible passage. WRITE your thoughts, reactions, observations. ANSWER THE QUESTION to begin connecting the Bible with your life experience. Use additional paper or your own notebook if you need more space to write.*

**Monday, 8/4/08 – Read 1 Samuel 18:1-5**

My Observations \_\_\_\_\_  
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A Question to Answer: The children & youth of our church focused on friendship while they were at camp this past week. Let's continue that theme and think about our own friendships from the perspective of the Bible. ... One of the Bible's great friendships was between David and Jonathan. Today's reading says that "the soul of Jonathan was bound to the soul of David." Have you ever had such a friend -- and it seemed that your souls were bound together? ... What was that like? Describe that relationship.

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**Tuesday, 8/5/08 – Read Luke 1:39-45**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_  
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A Question to Answer: When Mary was pregnant with Jesus, she went to visit Elizabeth who was also pregnant. ... Why do you think it may have been important to Mary to visit with Elizabeth? ... Have you ever had a time when it was important to you to visit with and spend time with a friend? What made that visit so important to you? What did your friendship mean to you at that point?

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**Wednesday, 8/6/08 – Read John 15:12-17**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_  
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A Question to Answer: Jesus too entered into friendships. On his last night with his disciples, he tells them that he knows they are friends -- not just servants. Can you think of Jesus as a friend? What would it mean to you to live your life, day in and day out, relating to Jesus as friend?

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**Thursday, 8/7/08 – Read Mark 10:35-44**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_  
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A Question to Answer: Friendships can, of course, go wrong. Have you ever had a friendship that went wrong? What caused that to happen? ... In today's reading James and John seek a position of superiority and elevated status over the other disciples. What happens to friendships when one of the friends is constantly seeking superiority over the other? Have you ever experienced that? Have you ever done that? ... What happened to that friendship?

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**Friday, 8/8/08 – Read Philippians 1:3-11**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_  
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A Question to Answer: The apostle Paul started many churches, but the people in the church at Philippi had a special place in Paul's affections. They were his friends! ... Read again today's passage and let yourself feel the tenderness with which Paul writes to them. ... Notice his prayer for them. Do you pray for your friends? Do you thank God for them? ...

Today think of one of your closest friends and write your prayer for that person.

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**Saturday, 8/9/08 – Read *Philippians 2:19-30***

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

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A Question to Answer: As in all human relationships, the secret of friendship is communication. Notice verse 19 in today's reading -- how Paul yearns to receive news from his friends in Philippi -- to know how their lives and faith journeys are going. ... Is there a friend you haven't communicated with for awhile? ... How about today making that phone call or writing a note to that person?

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**Sunday, 8/10/08 – Read *Philippians 4:8-9***

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

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A Question to Answer: Even in good friendships, it's easy to get focused on the negative. Familiarity does sometimes make us more aware of another's shortcomings. ... Now think about today's reading. Paul says, "think about these things" -- these positive, praiseworthy things. We do have to discipline our minds -- even in friendships. Do you have a friend whom you find yourself thinking about negatively? Make a list today of all the great things about your friend, and "think about these things."

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*My Faith Journal*, August 3, 2008  
Camp Sunday Celebration  
***Friends***

**What do I want to remember out of today's message?**

**What action do I intend to take as a result of today's message?**