



PDCPC STUDENT MINISTRY

JESUS IS

A SERIES ON JESUS
WEEK 4 DEVOTIONAL

Wk €5

A NOTE FROM RYAN

06/28/2020

Hey Friends!

Have you ever wondered who Jesus truly is? I know over my life I've had many questions about who he is, why he did what he did, and ultimately what that means for us as humans. These devotional guides this month are designed to help us all think a little deeper about Jesus and hopefully gain a little insight into the reason behind his tremendous love.

Grace and Peace,

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THIS WEEK'S BIG IDEA...

JESUS IS

Better Than A Best Friend

You've probably heard of Jesus. You might even think you know a lot about Him. We all have some idea of who we think Jesus is. We might think of Him as a nice guy, a great teacher, a carpenter, or a guy who could walk on water . . . but who is Jesus really?

For the last three weeks, we've been talking about who Jesus is. This week, we will learn how Jesus is better than a best friend. "Friendship" means different things to different people. Some of are happy to go deep with just one or two friends, while others would rather be friends with everyone!



FRIENDSHIP

WHAT DOES FRIENDSHIP MEAN TO YOU?

Instructions: Think about the following questions. You can write your answer in your own journal or in the space on the next page.

- Would you rather have one great friend or lots of acquaintances?
- Think about a time someone was a great friend to you. What did they do? What was that relationship like?
- What are your top three qualities of a great friend?
- What's one thing you hope your friends never do, because it would probably ruin your friendship forever?
- Have you ever been really hurt by a friend? In just one word, what happened?
- How can our friendships with other people impact our friendship with Jesus, either positively or negatively?



BEST FRIENDS FOREVER

Whether it's in a movie, a book, or a real-life friend, we often get glimpses of what true friendship can look like. Unfortunately, though, there is no such thing as a perfect friend. Even our very best friends will sometimes hurt us, let us down, or grow distant over time. And no matter how hard we try, we'll never be perfect friends either.

You may or may not ever felt so close to Jesus that you might call Him a best friend, but maybe that's the kind of relationship He's inviting you to experience with Him.

As we finish up this series use the margins of this devotional or your journal to write all of the ways that Jesus is a friend to us — and not just any friend. He's a best friend. He's even better than a best friend.

Before we read any further, maybe you have some ideas already about how Jesus is like a friend to us. So what do you think? *How is Jesus a friend to us?*



EXAMPLE #1

MATTHEW 14:28-31

You might know about the disciples. They were a group of people who followed Jesus everywhere while He was on earth so they could learn from Him. But these people were more than just students and followers of Jesus. They became some of His closest friends.

Let's read a story from the book of Matthew that will not only show us how Jesus was a friend to His disciples, but might also show us how Jesus can be a friend to you and me.

“'Lord, if it's you,' Peter replied, 'tell me to come to you on the water.' 'Come,' he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. 'You of little faith,' he said, 'why did you doubt?'" - Matthew 14:28-31



FRIENDSHIP LIKE NO OTHER

Unfortunately, Peter suddenly realizes it's kind of crazy to actually walk on water, so he panics and starts to sink. Of course, Jesus saves Peter. How do you think that makes Jesus a good friend?

We see Jesus do so much in this passage! Jesus:

- Invites, includes, and welcomes Peter.
- Encourages Peter.
- Helps Peter.
- Supports Peter.
- Challenges Peter.

Let's talk about that "challenging" thing for a second, because the order of events is really important here.

As Peter's friend, Jesus knows it's not just his job to support Peter. It's also his job to challenge him to make him better -

a better friend, person, and leader.

But it's only after Jesus has Peter safely in His grasp that He asks, "Why did you doubt?"

Can you imagine if Jesus had said that to Peter while Peter was still sinking? Talk about insensitive! The guy was drowning — it wouldn't really have been a good time to yell at him or remind him of his shortcomings.

When Peter was in need, Jesus didn't treat him with cruelty or insensitivity, but maybe you know what it's like to be treated that way — even by a friend.

Sometimes we've been so hurt by others that it's hard to trust that God will treat us differently. But as we see here, Jesus isn't like other people.



EXAMPLE #2

MATTHEW 28:19-20

Another reason people sometimes struggle to trust God is because they've been abandoned by people they loved when they needed them most. Maybe you know what that's like.

As you might know, there came a time in Jesus' life and ministry when the disciples thought they had lost Him forever. Jesus was killed and stayed dead for three whole days. But then He came back to life — it was a miracle.

I'm guessing Jesus' friends were thrilled to have Jesus with them again. And I'm guessing they were devastated when Jesus told them, "Hey — I'm actually leaving. This time, for good. Sort of."

It was time for Jesus to leave earth and return to heaven. But before Jesus left, He said . . .



THE GREAT COMMISSION

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” – Matthew 28:19-20

This passage is part of what we call “the Great Commission.” It’s one of the very last things he tells His friends and followers. How do Jesus’ words and actions here make Him a good friend?

Jesus promised His disciples that He would always be with them. No other friend (not even a best friend) can promise that.



EXAMPLE #3

JOHN 15:12-13

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." - John 15:12-13

In this passage, Jesus says true friends love each other so much that they're willing to sacrifice everything — even their lives — for their friends. Does that sound like something Jesus might do — or has done?

Jesus did lay down His life for us, His friends. He didn't just teach us how to love and be friends to each other. Jesus modeled it

So who is Jesus? These stories, Jesus' own words, and all of the observations we've written down over the last few minutes make it pretty clear. Jesus is a friend, but He's so much more than that. *Jesus is better than a best friend.*



RESPONSE

You might be thinking, "Okay — Jesus is better than a best friend. That's nice, but so what? What does that mean for you and me?" Two things:

- *JESUS IS THE FRIEND YOU ALWAYS NEED:* We, as your leaders know because we've experienced it. He's inviting you into a deeper friendship with Him right now.
- *JESUS SHOWS US THE KIND OF FRIEND WE CAN BE:* It's not easy, and we won't always get it right, but Jesus sets the example of how to love and treat the people around us. Then, He gives us the help and courage we need to become better friends to the people we love.

Look again at your list in the margins of your journal of reasons why Jesus is better than a best friend. Think for a moment about this question: *which of these reasons most connects with you, and why do you think that is?* Maybe it's because that's the quality you want most from your friends, or the quality Jesus is challenging you to have.



IF JESUS CAN BE, I CAN BE

Instructions: Think about the following questions. You can write your answer in your own journal or in the space on the next page.

- Read John 15:14-17. Jesus has already been a great friend to us, but how can we be a great friend to Jesus?
- Because of the friendship Jesus offers to you, what's one thing you will do to show His love in your friendships
- If you were here for Week 1 of this series, you filled out a card that said who Jesus is to you. Hopefully you kept it safe, took a picture, or remember what you wrote. What did you write then? What would you write now?
- What's one thing you wish more people understood about who Jesus is? How can you help more people see Jesus that way?



PRAYER

Instructions: Write this prayer in your journal and reflect back on it whenever you need a reminder that you are not alone, or need help being there for others.

"God,

Thank you for Son, Jesus, who is God, Savior, truth, and better than a best friend. Thank you that Jesus is good news, not just for some people, but for all people. Thank you that, through Jesus, we can be called your friends. Help us not to take Jesus' friendship for granted, but instead: Commit to growing a deeper friendship with You. Let Your Spirit help us become more like the kind of friend Jesus has been to us.

Amen"

