

# Short Bible Devotions

Here's a couple of short Bible studies written to help you consider Christian Friendship. Try as many as you can make time for!

## Devotion 1: Sacrificial Commitment

Read **John 15:12-13**, and then pray for God's help!

1. Jesus is speaking to his disciples the night before he died. What do these verses tell us of how Jesus has loved his followers? How does what Jesus say before he is arrested in chapter 18 verse 8-9 also help us understand how he laid down his life for disciples?
2. *Reflect.* How do these verses teach you of how Jesus has loved you? Are you worthy or deserving of such love? (see chapter 13 verse 36-38 to see Peter's unworthiness!)
3. How does Jesus tell us in v12-13 to conduct ourselves with Christian friends? How does this challenge you among your current friendships?
4. Proverbs 18:24 says: **One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.**  
*Reflect.* When has a friend been like Jesus in laying down their life for you? What encourages you about their (or Jesus') example? How has their action grown your friendship? In what way do you want to be the same?

*Give thanks to God that we are friends of Jesus, by faith.*

*Give thanks for others in your life who have been friends like Jesus, to you.*

*Ask for the help to imitate your Lord and your friends in your friendships with others.*

## Devotion 2: Sharing Transparently

Read **John 15:14-17**, and then pray for God's help!

1. In verse 14, what is the result of us keeping Jesus' command to lay down our lives for others? Looking firstly at chapter 15 verse 10, why does Jesus expect his followers to keep his command?
2. How does Jesus show us in verse 15 that our own command-keeping is not the basis of our friendship with Jesus?
3. *Reflect.* What has God the Father shared with *you*? Through reading the Bible, through the life of Jesus, through being part of the church? How do these things encourage you that you are a friend of Jesus?
4. How does "everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you" set us an example in our friendships with Christians?
  - a. In speaking about Jesus and the gospel?
  - b. In being open about ourselves?
5. Proverbs 27:6 says: **Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.**  
*Reflect.* What do you talk about with Christian friends? How do your answers to question 4 need to change and shape your future conversations?

*Give great thanks to God for sharing himself and his plans with us, for making known the gospel to us in Jesus. Thank Jesus for the example of honest and open friendship which has pointed us to God, our Father. Pray that you can be a friend who imitates this example.*