



LESSON 5 // FINDING A REAL FRIEND

Big Idea: Matthew was a hated and alienated tax collector when Jesus saw him, called him and became a Friend to him. Jesus wants to be your Friend too, no matter what other people think of you or how alienated you might feel.

Luke 5:27-28 (NLT) *Later, as Jesus left the town, he saw a tax collector named Levi sitting at his tax collector's booth. "Follow me and be my disciple," Jesus said to him. So Levi got up, left everything, and followed him.*

Proverbs 17:17 (NLT) *A friend is always loyal, and a brother is born to help in time of need.*

John 15:13-15 (NLT) *There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me.*

John 1:10-13 (NLT) *He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn — not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.*

Start Talking:

What are some of the benefits of a good friendship?

Start Thinking:

Read Luke 5:27-28. Why is it important in a friendship to see beyond the superficial to the potential in your friend, as Jesus did with Levi (Matthew)?

Read Proverbs 17:17. What does it mean to be "loyal" in a friendship?

Read John 15:13-15. What do you learn about true friendship from these verses? How did Jesus set the example of this kind of friendship?

Read John 1:10-13. What does it mean to "accept" (NLT) or "receive" (NIV) Jesus? What happens when we do, according to these verses?

Start Praying and Doing:

Pray for a deeper understanding of the amazing friendship you have with Jesus. Look for opportunities to be a good friend to someone this week, using the example of Jesus as an encouragement.