

DEVOTIONAL

for parents



It's easy to spot a fake friend (and even easier to be a fake friend at times), but what's not-so-easy is figuring out how to make and keep friendships that are real. Maybe it's just easier to keep our friendships on the surface. Or maybe we've never seen real friendship in real life before. Or maybe we don't actually know anyone we trust enough to be real with. These days, when "friends" are just a click or a follow away, it's more important than ever to figure out what true friendship really looks like. In this 4-week series, we'll explore the words and stories of Jesus, the disciples, Paul, Timothy, David, and Jeremiah to help us understand what authentic friendship can look like. Together, we'll discover that real friends **choose each other wisely, show each other grace, comfort each other, and help each other grow.**

Want to learn and grow alongside your kid as we go through this teaching series? You can! Spend a few minutes each week **studying** the passages of Scripture we'll be teaching, **praying** about what God wants to do in you and in your family, and **growing** by putting God's words into practice in your own life.

WEEK 1 Real friends choose each other wisely.

Psalms 1:1-3; Matthew 9:9-13; Proverbs 13:20



STUDY

Take a moment to read the passages we're covering this week.
What stands out to you in this passage and why?



PRAY

Pray for guidance as you build friendships that reflect God's love and wisdom.



GROW

So what's your next step? Are the people you spend the most time with helping you become the person you want to be? How are you showing up as the kind of friend you'd want to have? What might it look like to choose your circle with care and kindness? Whatever your next step is right now, take it.

WEEK 2 Real friends show each other grace.

Acts 9:1-19; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Proverbs 17:9



STUDY

Take a moment to read the passages we're covering this week.
What stands out to you in this passage and why?



PRAY

Thank God for showing you grace and ask for help in showing that same grace to your friends.



GROW

So what's your next step? Is there a friend who's hurt you that you've been holding at a distance? How might offering grace bring healing to that relationship? How can remembering the grace you've received from God help you extend it more freely to others? Whatever your next step is right now, take it.

WEEK 3

Real friends comfort each other.

John 11:1-45; Jeremiah 8:18-19a; Proverbs 17:17



STUDY

Take a moment to read the passages we're covering this week.

What stands out to you in this passage and why?



PRAY

Pray for the courage to be present with someone who is hurting—even when you're not sure what to say.



GROW

So what's your next step? Can you think of a time when someone simply showed up and comforted you during a tough moment? Is there someone in your life right now who needs support, a kind word, or even just your presence? How might following Jesus' example of compassion shift the way you show up for the people around you? Whatever your next step is right now, take it.

WEEK 4

Real friends help each other grow.

Mark 9:33-37; 1 Timothy 6:11-18; Proverbs 27:17



STUDY

Take a moment to read the passages we're covering this week.

What stands out to you in this passage and why?



PRAY

Pray for opportunities to have honest conversations that help you and your friends grow stronger in faith and love.



GROW

So what's your next step? Who in your life helps you grow, and how have they shown up for you in meaningful ways? What could it look like for you to be that kind of friend to someone else right now? Are there words of encouragement you've been meaning to share, or a conversation you've been putting off because it feels too hard? Whatever your next step is right now, take it.