



## I AM JESUS' FRIEND!

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Friendship is a **powerful** relationship because a friend is someone we choose to love. Think about it. No one can *force* you to be their friend. You call someone “friend” because you *want* him/her in your life. Friendship is also a **privileged** relationship. Those we truly call our “friends” are people we let backstage in our life. We let them know our secrets, our hopes, our fears and our dreams. Lastly, friendship is a **profound** relationship. We laugh with our friends. We cry together. We show up in the moments that matter. The myriads of scenes shared with our friends knit a tapestry that tells the narrative of our entire life. To be a “friend” is to open your whole being to another person so that they can really *know* you. It should take our breath away, then, that Jesus said that *we* are his friends. He tore back the veil that separated us from his heart and has invited us behind the curtain into the most intimate place of fellowship with him. From that privileged position, every moment he is disclosing his secrets and his dreams to us, his *friends*. He has given us **all** of him and longs for us to learn how to laugh with him, to cry with him, and to bring him into every moment and every memory in the most profound way. He has opened all of himself to you. Today, would you do the same?

“I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you *friends*, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.” John 15:15 – Emphasis added.

### QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION:

1. *Who is one of your closest and most trusted friends? What qualities make this friendship so special?*
2. *Have you ever considered God a dear “friend?” Why or why not?*
3. *What practical things can you do to grow in “friendship” with God in this season?*

### PRAYER:

*Lord Jesus, thank you for bringing me into your friendship. Help me learn to trust your heart and to allow you to become my closest friend. Tear down the places where I hide from you and show me how to open up and share my whole heart with you. You are my friend, and I trust you. As your friend, I’m ready to hear all you have to say about what you’re doing in and through my life.*

### LISTENING TIME:

*Stop for a few minutes and ask the Lord what he wants to say to you. He might bring to mind a picture, a word, a song, an encouragement, a Scripture or an answer to a burden in your heart. Don’t rush or feel pressure to figure out the meaning of your impressions. Just invite him to speak and draw or write down what you sense. Afterward, ask God to help you discern and understand what he is saying to you. You might want to ask other trusted friends in the Kingdom for their input as well.*

