

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Real Friends / Week 1

WEEK 1

BE THE FRIEND YOU WANT TO HAVE.

**"Do to others
as you would have
them do to you."**

LUKE 6:31 NIV

DAY 1

Remember the game "Simon Says"? A group of friends get together to follow the leader (aka Simon). The leader does something, and everyone else copies it. Believe it or not, this is actually a pretty good illustration of the way a lot friend circles work. Someone in the group does something, and everyone else follows suit. The truth is we all often end up following the lead of some of our friends. And while this can sometimes be a negative thing, it doesn't always have to be. In fact, when we treat others the way this verse instructs—the way we'd like to be treated—it can often lead to ripple effects on your entire circle. **So this week, be the leader in your friend group by treating your friends the way you want to be treated.** Then watch and see how it impacts the rest of your group!

There are "friends"
who destroy each
other, but **a real
friend** sticks closer
than a brother.

PROVERBS 18:24 NLT

DAY 2

Have you ever had the kind of friend you're not sure is actually your friend? Someone who maybe acts like they're your friend, but then says or does something not so friendly behind your back? Those people feel like fake friends, don't they? And they definitely make us appreciate our *real* friends all the more! One of the best ways to find real friends is to start being a real friend to others. Because you know who trustworthy people like to hang out with? Other trustworthy people. You know who loyal people like to hang out with? Other loyal people. So instead of getting frustrated with your fake friends, focus on being a real friend—the kind of friend you want to attract! **Today, think of one quality you're looking for in a real friend. Then, ask God to help you start living out that quality for yourself this week.**

**Walk with the wise
and become wise, for
a companion of fools
suffers harm.**

PROVERBS 13:20 NIV

DAY 3

Have you ever stubbed your toe on the edge of a piece of furniture? It's pretty much the worst pain in the world—at least for a moment! And in that moment, you probably think, *Why didn't I see that coming?* Wouldn't it be nice if someone helped you see the mess you were in before it happened? If they saw you walking toward what might cause you pain and stopped you before you got there? That's what real friends do for one another. When we let real friends live life close to us, they can help make us aware of things in our lives that could potentially hurt us. They can help us see the right path and encourage us to walk it. In other words, they have our back! **This week, make an effort to look out for your friends—and ask them to do the same for you.**

**A friend loves at all
times, and a brother
is born for a time of
adversity.**

PROVERBS 17:17 NIV

DAY 4

Life is full of challenges. Some are things that are in our control, like passing a difficult class or learning to get along with our younger sibling. But honestly, most of the challenges we'll face in this life are things we have little or no control over. We can't always control how much homework we just got assigned, how much our parents fight, or the health of someone we love. But when we face challenges like these, it's helpful to have real friends in our lives—friends who are willing to be with us through those challenging and difficult moments. **Today, ask God to help you find the kind of friends who are willing to be there for you no matter what.**

**Be devoted to
one another in love.
Honor one another
above yourselves.**

ROMANS 12:10 NIV

DAY 5

Everyone loves to be celebrated! When we do something awesome like passing a big test or making the team for the first time, we want the people in our lives to be excited with us. When we're cheered on by those we love, it makes us feel good about ourselves and our accomplishments. And the same is true for your friends! They want you to support and celebrate the wins in their lives just as much as you want them to do the same for you. And that's because real friends celebrate and support one another whenever they get the chance, even if they have nothing to gain from it. **Today, find a way to cheer on, congratulate, or even compliment a friend.** This may feel like a small gesture, but your words can have a huge impact on their day!