

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Circles

WEEK 1

BE THE KIND OF FRIEND YOU WANT IN YOUR CIRCLE.

“Do to others as you would have them do to you.”

LUKE 6:31 NIV

DAY 1

It can be easy to be kind to the people who care for you, love you, and probably even do nice things for you. But other people? The ones who aren't always so nice? Well, sometimes being kind or showing love to them is pretty difficult. Jesus calls us to show love to all people, regardless of how they may treat us. He doesn't say this will be easy, but He does ask us to give it a shot. Why? Because this kind of love is different. And when you love the people around you with His kind of love, they'll notice. Ask God to help you love the people in your circle the way that Jesus called you to love them—no matter what!

“One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.”

PROVERBS 18:24 NIV

DAY 2

When life is good, it seems easy to tell who your real friends are. You laugh together, you have fun together, and you spend all your time together. But are those same friends with you when things get hard? Remember that real friends are the kind who will stick by you in good times and in bad. They can be a source of encouragement and support to help you when you're down. Think this week about the kinds of friends you have in your circle. Are they only there for the good times? Or are they with you through it all, ups and downs alike? Text one of your friends who has stuck with you, and thank them for being that kind of friend in your life.

**“Walk with the wise and become wise,
for a companion of fools suffer harm.”**

PROVERBS 13:20 NIV

DAY 3

It's been said that if you want to get a glimpse of who you'll be in the future, you should simply look at the people around you in the present. What kinds of choices are they making? What's important to them? What are their hopes for the future? The reality is that the people you keep close to you have the ability to influence and shape the person you are—both now and in the future! So take time to reflect on this verse. Maybe even try to memorize it! Use it to help you think about the friends you have in your life. Are they helping you become wise? Or could they potentially be causing you to suffer harm?

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

PROVERBS 17:17 NIV

DAY 4

Some friends in your life are so close that they almost become like family. These are the friends who know the most about you. They're the people who will be there to offer support during hard times in your life and celebrate alongside you when you experience new blessings. They are the friends who will love you at all times. I don't know about you, but that is the kind of friend I want to have and the kind of friend I want to be! Take a few minutes to thank God for the friends who love you at all times, and ask Him to help you be that very same kind of friend to others.

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

ROMANS 12:10 NIV

DAY 5

Being able to love those around you the way God calls you to won't just happen by itself. It's going to require some effort on your part and of course, the help of God working in you. But when you put those two things together, you'll find that loving others with the love of Jesus can happen more easily than you think! Look for little ways to show love to those you come in contact with today. This could be as simple as holding the door as others pass through or giving a meaningful compliment to someone you don't normally talk to in class. Whatever it is, put in the effort and ask God to work in you to love the people you encounter.
