

## A Friend for Life

### Objective

- ❖ To know how to choose the correct spiritual friend
- ❖ To act on maintaining a good Christian friend for life

### Scriptural Verse

“But there is a friend that sticks closer than a brother” (Proverbs 18:24).

### References

Holy Scripture

### Introduction

The best friend for life is Jesus Christ. He is the ever lasting friend that any of us can turn to at any time and in all conditions. His arms are open wide to receive us and will never turn us down. However, man by nature always needs a companion with him to communicate and share feelings with.

### Lesson Outlines

God acknowledged our need for human companionship and a friend when He created Eve for Adam to give him company and end his feelings of loneliness (Genesis 2:18).

Jesus Christ also chose the 12 disciples to teach them friendship and to share everything together during His ministry. He later sent them in groups of twos as a practical lesson.

David and Jonathan were an example of the good strong and lasting friendship. Jonathan and David were both faithful to each other even in hardships and when they were apart from each other. Jonathan even helped David to flee from his father, King Saul, when he wanted to kill David.

Considering the above examples in the Bible we can extract some of the characteristics of the ever lasting Christian/spiritual friendship:

- ❖ It is a **gift from God** and we should pray to God to guide us to a good spiritual friend.
- ❖ The main bond in a long lasting friendship is **love** (Proverbs 17:17). David loved Jonathan even more than his love to any woman (2 Samuel 1:26).
- ❖ A good friend **shares** all the feelings and secrets and keeps them (Proverbs 18:24).
- ❖ A good friend **provides support** from all aspects (spiritual, material, and psychological) when needed.

- ❖ A true friendship shows its love through **actions**. The actions could be big or small but it reflects caring between friends.
- ❖ A true spiritual friend cares for **spiritual growth** of his/her friend and his relationship with God.
- ❖ A friend for life is **available at all times**, particularly in hardships and tribulations (Proverbs 27:10).
- ❖ A friend for life would **think of you** even when he/she is apart or far away.
- ❖ A true friendship for life (especially between married people, who are also good example of friendship) results in **mingling of two souls** together and forever (1Samuel 18:1)

## **Conclusion**

After all the most important thing is to build our friendship with God who is the everlasting friend. Man can have a friendship with God to the extent that man and God can have a conversation face to face. Abraham and Moses were good examples of men who reached that level of friendship with God (Exodus 33:11, 2 Chronicles 20:7)

## **Discussions/Workshops**

Divide the group into 2 workshop groups to discuss the following subheadings:

- ❖ What strengthens a friendship
- ❖ What weakens a friendship