

# DEVELOPING FRIENDSHIPS FOR THE LORD

## The purpose of this module is to:

Recognize how to develop friendships for the Lord.

## The objectives for this module are to:

- Consider how Jesus developed His friendships
- Identify those with whom Jesus developed friendships
- Determine why Jesus accumulated friendships

A. \_\_\_\_\_ did Jesus develop friendships?

1. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ His friendships.

a. He chose to be \_\_\_\_\_ to people.

1. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ sat down by Jacob's well, an ideal place to meet people (John 4).
2. Jesus spent two \_\_\_\_\_ in Sychar with the Samaritan woman and her friends (John 4:40).

b. He asked people to \_\_\_\_\_ Him in daily activities.

1. Jesus said, " \_\_\_\_\_ me" to Matthew (Matt. 9:9).
2. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ with Matthew and his friends (Matt. 9:10).

2. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ friendships.

a. He was \_\_\_\_\_.

1. Jesus first established \_\_\_\_\_ ground with the Samaritan woman: the need for water (John 4:7).
2. Only then did Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ to a conversation about living water (John 4:10-14).

b. He was \_\_\_\_\_.

1. Jesus admitted his \_\_\_\_\_ for a drink (John 4:7).
2. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ the woman's true need.

3. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ friendships.

a. He \_\_\_\_\_ effectively.

1. Jesus used effective \_\_\_\_\_ communication.
2. He \_\_\_\_\_ down by the well (John 4:6), thereby putting the Samaritan woman at ease.
3. He progressed from speaking (John 4:10, 13, 17) to declaring (vv. 21, 26), thereby \_\_\_\_\_ the woman's need for salvation.
4. Jesus used effective \_\_\_\_\_ communication.
5. Jesus did not give \_\_\_\_\_ answers (John 4:10, 21).
6. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ the woman's responses (John 4:17, 21).

b. He \_\_\_\_\_ carefully.

1. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ between speaking and listening.
2. Jesus was not sidetracked by \_\_\_\_\_ issues (John 4:11-12).

B. With whom did Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ friendships?

1. Jesus was "...a friend of tax \_\_\_\_\_..." (Matt. 11:19).

a. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ a specific class of people, tax collectors Matthew and Zaccheus, for his friends.

1. The tax collector was a public figure; his associations were subject to public \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The tax collector was the \_\_\_\_\_ common denominator in society.

b. Jesus was impervious to social status, but \_\_\_\_\_ to spiritual needs.

1. "Philos," the Greek word for friend, is used to describe the patriarch \_\_\_\_\_ (James 2:23).
2. "Philos," the same Greek word for friend, is used to \_\_\_\_\_ the tax collector Matthew (Matt 11:19).

2. Jesus was "...a friend of tax collectors and \_\_\_\_\_" (Matt 11:19).

a. Jesus befriended both those who did, as well as those who did not, readily \_\_\_\_\_ their sin.

1. The Samaritan woman \_\_\_\_\_ admitted her sin to Jesus (John 4:17a).
2. Matthew was sitting at a tax collector booth and \_\_\_\_\_ in his sin when he met Jesus (Matt 9:9).

b. Jesus befriended sinners \_\_\_\_\_ they were made righteous.

1. All men are \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 5:19).
2. Jesus' friendship \_\_\_\_\_ the lives of sinners.

C. \_\_\_\_\_ did Jesus develop His friendships?

1. Jesus' purpose was to \_\_\_\_\_ people to God.

a. Jesus demonstrated the \_\_\_\_\_ for salvation.

1. The Samaritan woman was a societal outcast; Jesus offered \_\_\_\_\_ from God (John 4:9, 13-14).
2. The Samaritan woman was a doubter, Jesus offered a \_\_\_\_\_ to believe (John 4:11-13).
3. The Samaritan woman was a sinner, Jesus offered \_\_\_\_\_ (John 4:17, 23).

b. Jesus described the \_\_\_\_\_ of salvation.

1. Living water quenches spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ (14).
2. Living water is available to \_\_\_\_\_ (14).
3. Living water provides \_\_\_\_\_ rewards (14).

- c. Jesus encouraged the \_\_\_\_\_ of salvation.
  1. Jesus invited the Samaritan woman to \_\_\_\_\_ the gift of God (10).
  2. Jesus invited the Samaritan woman to \_\_\_\_\_ for living water (10).
  3. Jesus invited the Samaritan woman to accept salvation (22).
2. Jesus' purpose was to \_\_\_\_\_ people in ministry.
  - a. Matthew effectively \_\_\_\_\_ the Gospel (Matt 9:10).
    1. He invited Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ for dinner.
    2. He \_\_\_\_\_ sinners to eat with Jesus.
  - b. The \_\_\_\_\_ woman effectively spread the Gospel (John 4:28).
    1. John 4:28 says, "Then \_\_\_\_\_ her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, 'Come see a man who told me everything I ever did.'"
    2. In this context, the word "leave" literally means to forsake or abandon.
    3. The same meaning is found in John 4:52, "the fever left him" (the official's Son), and John 16:32, "You (the disciples) will leave me (Jesus) all alone."
    4. The Samaritan woman forsook her old life of pursuing temporary pleasures for a new life of receiving eternal salvation.
    5. The woman's \_\_\_\_\_ brought her neighbors to Jesus (John 4:39).
    6. After hearing Jesus' words, the neighbors became \_\_\_\_\_ (John 4:40-42).

## SMALL GROUP EXERCISE

**Do I go places where I can meet people who are not Christians?**

*1=No 2=Very Seldom 3=Sometimes 4=Often 5=Regularly*

**Am I willing to set aside my own busy agenda to listen to people who don't share my beliefs?**

*1=No 2=Very Seldom 3=Sometimes 4=Often 5=Regularly*

**Am I as good a listener as I am a talker?**

*1=No 2=Very Seldom 3=Sometimes 4=Often 5=Regularly*

**Do I look for and establish common ground with people who don't know Jesus?**

*1=No 2=Very Seldom 3=Sometimes 4=Often 5=Regularly*

**Do I try to make my verbal and nonverbal communication congruent?**

*1=No 2=Very Seldom 3=Sometimes 4=Often 5=Regularly*

**Do I believe people are intrinsically concerned about eternal issues?**

*1=No 2=Very Seldom 3=Sometimes 4=Often 5=Regularly*

## ACTION PLANNING/REPORTING

How many Samaritan men and women do you know? Think for a moment and you'll realize that all around you there are people who are, just like the woman at the well, looking for happiness in all the wrong places. But, unfortunately, we often write off the "Samaritans" we meet because we don't believe they would respond positively to the Gospel.

How would you respond to the unbelievers you befriend if you believed they were longing to hear the good news of the Gospel?

Divide into groups of three to four participants. Ask one person to read aloud John 4:9-17. Listen to how Jesus pinpointed the Samaritan woman's need. Also notice the way Jesus described the benefits of salvation.

Now consider the need(s) of your non-Christian friend(s). Are they so-called social outcasts who are craving acceptance just like the Samaritan woman? Do they doubt Jesus is real? What is their greatest need right now? How can Jesus meet that specific need?

**Friend's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Their Needs:** \_\_\_\_\_

**How Jesus Meets Those Needs:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Friend's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Their Needs:** \_\_\_\_\_

**How Jesus Meets Those Needs:** \_\_\_\_\_

Again picture in your mind your non-Christian friends. What benefit(s) of salvation do they most crave at this point in their lives? Are they, like the Samaritan woman, unsatisfied because happiness eludes them? Are they tired of sinning? Fill in the chart below.

**Friend's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Salvation Benefit They Need to Receive:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Friend's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Salvation Benefit They Need to Receive:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Friend's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Salvation Benefit They Need to Receive:** \_\_\_\_\_

Choose one other person in your group with whom to pray right now. Mention your unsaved friends by name; ask God to give you an opportunity in the coming week to talk with one unsaved friend about his or her greatest need and how salvation can meet that need. Let your prayer partner know, either by phone or e-mail, the outcome of your conversation with your unsaved friend.