
DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Real Friends / Week 3

WEEK 3

YOU CAN BE FRIENDLY WITHOUT BEING FRIENDS.

“Love your neighbor
as **yourself.**”

MARK 12:31B NIV

DAY 1

We do a lot for ourselves. Just think about it! We eat when we're hungry, brush our teeth, try to get at least a few hours of sleep every night, and work hard for the things we want (like our grades, our team, or our jobs). Why do we do all of that? Because we view ourselves with a sense of value. We believe that we're worth it. What if we treated the people we may not consider to have that same worth or value in our lives the same way? The people we don't see as our friends? That's exactly what Jesus called us to—show them the same, care, value, and love we show ourselves. **Write today's verse on a notecard and carry it around in your pocket as a reminder to treat others well—the way you treat yourself.**

Above all, love each
other deeply, because
**love covers over a
multitude of sins.**

1 PETER 4:8 NIV

DAY 2

We've all been hurt by others. And to be honest, we've all hurt someone else, too. That's just the way it goes sometimes! But what if all there was a way that all those wrongs and hurts could be healed? Even though there will always be hurt between people, there's also always a chance that things can get better. Despite the bad history, angry feelings, and what can seem like a hopeless future, choosing to simply love the other person can go a long way to heal the hurt in your relationship. How can you show love to someone who has hurt you? Or someone you have hurt? **Today's challenge: Intentionally show kindness to someone you've been struggling with lately.** It might not fix anything, but it's a step in the right direction!

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone.
Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

COLOSSIANS 3:13 NIV

DAY 3

It's easy to hold grudges against other people. But in the long run, those grudges actually end up hurting *us* way more than they do them! Why? Because they stir up bitterness, anger, and frustration within us. So, what if we decided to forgive that person instead? To let go of the grudge and in turn, the feelings we're holding onto with it? Forgiveness doesn't mean what the other person did wasn't wrong or didn't hurt you. But it is the first step in saying that you won't let that hurt define you. Is there a grudge you've been holding against someone in your life? **Today, ask God to help you stop holding on to it and start forgiving that person—just as God has forgiven you.**

Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to **build them up.**

ROMANS 15:2 NIV

DAY 4

We all know what it feels like to have someone do something nice for us. When that happens, doesn't it feel good to know someone is looking out for you? Well, you don't have to wait for that to happen to you! You can show up for others in the same way first! When we choose to build up others by helping them or encouraging them, we're showing them that they matter. The truth is, it's pretty easy to overlook and even tear down the people around us; the harder (but better!) thing to do is build them up. **Today, talk to someone new—maybe a new neighbor, someone in your class, or someone new on your team. As you do, look for an easy way to build them up.**

"To you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, **do good** to those who hate you."

LUKE 6:27 NIV

DAY 5

At first glance, this verse doesn't really make sense, does it? It's basically telling us to do the exact opposite of what seems normal and fair. But have you ever thought that maybe what we see as normal or fair might not always be right? The truth is, we don't always know someone's full story—what things they might be dealing with at home, at school, or in their minds. People who are hurting inside often take it out on the people around them. And though it doesn't excuse bad behavior, remembering that does help us to better be able to put this verse into practice in our relationships. **Today, try praying for someone you haven't been getting along with lately.** Ask God to help you start seeing them differently and to walk with them through whatever tough situations they may be facing right now.