

## **No. 100     How to Build Strong and Lasting Friendships**

PLEASE NOTE: Motivate the audience to cultivate friendship with Jehovah and to build strong friendships within the congregation. If you wish, you may use the provided artwork to illustrate the points indicated

### **WHY DO WE NEED FRIENDS? (3 min.)**

Good friends contribute to a satisfying and meaningful life (Pr 18:24; g04 12/8 3)

It is not healthy for a person to be isolated from others (Pr 18:1)

A close friend can help us get through difficult times [Read Proverbs 17:17] [Image 1]

### **HOW TO CHOOSE GOOD FRIENDS (6 min.)**

Your friends influence who you become and what happens to you [Read Proverbs 13:20]

What should you look for when choosing friends?

*Admirable qualities:* Choose friends who have qualities that are worthy of imitation and who will be a positive influence on you (Pr 27:17; 1Co 15:33; Ga 5:22, 23)

*High moral standards:* Choose friends whose moral standards agree with God's (Eph 5:3-5)

Do not limit yourself to friends who are of your same age and background (2Co 6:13; g 6/14 7)

### **HOW TO BUILD STRONG FRIENDSHIPS (9 min.)**

The key to building strong friendships is showing unselfish love (1Co 13:4-7; g 6/14 5 ¶1-4)

Ruth and Naomi, Jonathan and David, and Paul and Timothy are outstanding examples of friendships based on unselfish love (Ru 1:16, 17; 1Sa 18:1; 23:16-18; Php 2:19-22)

Strengthen your friendships by applying Bible principles, which are based on love

Be a good listener (Jas 1:19; g 6/14 5 ¶5-9)

Do not reveal confidential matters or spread harmful gossip (Pr 16:28; 20:19)

Overlook imperfections and forgive freely (Col 3:13)

Show honor to your friends; respect their conscience and their privacy (Ro 12:10; 14:10; 1Pe 4:15)

### **HOW TO BUILD THE MOST IMPORTANT FRIENDSHIPS (8 min.)**

Our most important friendships are with Jehovah and Jesus

Jehovah delights in drawing close to humans who want to be his friends (Jas 2:23; 4:8)

To be Jehovah's friends, we must love him wholeheartedly [Read Matthew 22:37, 38]

We show unselfish love for God by obeying his commandments (1Jo 5:3; w06 12/1 21 ¶8)

We draw close to Jehovah through Jesus Christ (Joh 14:6, 21; w20.04 21-22 ¶5-6)

We build our friendship with Jesus by imitating his way of thinking and acting and by obeying his commands (Joh 14:15; w20.04 22-24 ¶10-11)

### **HOW TO MAKE YOUR FRIENDSHIPS LAST FOREVER (4 min.)**

If we want our friendships to last, we need to continue to strengthen them

Keep your friendship with Jehovah strong by regularly speaking to him in prayer and letting him speak to you through his Word, the Bible (Ps 1:2, 3; 1Th 5:17)

Choose friends who love Jehovah as you do

Help your friends to strengthen their love for God, and worship him together (1Th 5:11; Heb 10:24, 25) [Image 2]

By doing so, you can build friendships now that will last forever

[Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section.

Not all cited texts need to be read or commented on. See *Reminders for Those Assigned Public Talks* (S-141)]

TO BE COVERED IN 30 MINUTES

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