



Real friends

THE SERIES AT A GLANCE

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| 1 | Part 1 | David and Jonathan |
| 2 | Part 2 | Friends who open up a roof |
| 3 | Part 3 | Jesus calls us friends |



3 meetings of 8 minutes



Discovering what friendship means in the light of the Bible



Preparation: 5 min



How to use the series: Use one part in each of three meetings in a row. At the start, briefly recall the previous part.

1 Part 1: David and Jonathan

Bible: 1 Samuel 18:1–4 and 20:41–42

Jonathan is the king's son, David the shepherd boy whom Jonathan's father Saul hates. Even so, they become best friends. Jonathan gives David his cloak and his sword and warns him about Saul's plans – even though it costs him something. Real friends stick together when there is headwind.



Question: How can you tell that someone is a real friend?



Prayer: *God, thank you for people who stand by me. Make me a friend people can rely on. Amen.*



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2 Part 2: Friends who open up a roof

Bible: Mark 2:1–12

A paralysed man cannot get to Jesus by himself. His four friends carry him there – and when the house is full, they simply open up the roof and lower him down. Jesus sees their faith, forgives the man and heals him. Sometimes friends carry us when we cannot make it alone.

 **Question:** For whom could you be one of the four friends?

 **Prayer:** *Lord Jesus, show me whom I can carry to you – in prayer and with my help. Amen.*

3 Part 3: Jesus calls us friends

Bible: John 15:13–15

Jesus says: “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. I no longer call you servants, but friends.” Jesus is not only our Lord but our friend – someone who stays, who listens and who has given everything for us.

 **Question:** What changes when you see Jesus as a friend?

 **Prayer:** *Jesus, thank you for calling me your friend. Help me to stay connected with you – every day. Amen.*

For leaders

- Never put young people on the spot: ask open questions, nobody has to answer.
- Let one of the young people read the Bible text aloud.