

**Life in the Word Series:
Who's Sharing Your Yoke?**



Lesson Four: Friends with Benefits

**“A real friend is one who walks in
when the rest of the world walks
out.”**





**A friend is a person who is loyal,
helpful, and willing to sacrifice
themselves for another person.**





Seven Benefits of Friendship:

1. Friendships Enable Us to Live Life with Joy and Endurance.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. Likewise, two people lying close together can keep each other warm. But how can one be warm alone? A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.

WHY?

To Share In Our Work.

2. Help Each Other When We Fall.

3. To Keep Warm When It's Cold.

4. To Defend Each Other When Under Attack.

5. To Be A Solid and Cohesive Team.

2. Friendships Help Us Get Wiser or Can Destroy Us.

Proverbs 13:20, He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will be destroyed.

**3. Friendships Love Us and Are
With Us Through Life.**



**Proverbs 17:17, A friend loves at all times,
And a brother is born for adversity.**



4. Companions Help Mold Us.



Proverbs 27:17, As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.



True iron sharpening iron happens when we encourage each other to become stronger and smarter in spiritual matters and scripture. It is strength building up strength, keen spiritual minds encouraging other keen spiritual minds, even when there isn't complete agreement.



Three Friendship Principles from Proverbs 27:17:

1. Accountability

2. Motivation

3. Willingness



**5. Friendships Provide Us with
Comfort and They Edify Us.**

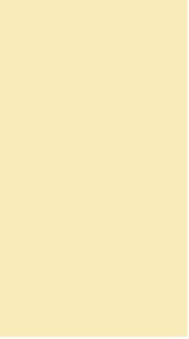
**1 Thessalonians 5:11, Therefore
comfort each other and edify
one another, just as you also
are doing.**

**6. Friendships Help us Identify
Sin and Protect Us.**

Hebrews 3:12-13, See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.

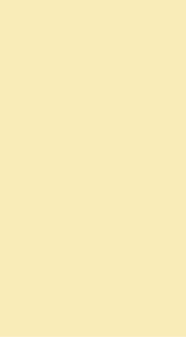
“SIN will take you further than you ever wanted to stray! Cost you more than you ever dreamed you would pay! Keep you longer than you ever thought you would stay!”

7. Friendships Help Us Do Good Deeds and Do Better.



Hebrews 10:24, And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works.





"A true friend never gets in your way unless you happen to be going down."





Five Standards for Friendship:



**1. Someone who Fears God/Respects God
and Obeys God.**

Psalm 119:63

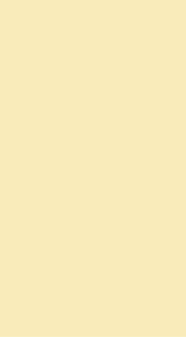




**2. Someone who Stays Away from the
Wicked/Sinners/Scoffers.**

Psalm 119:63





3. Someone Who's Life Honors God.

Psalm 15:2-5





4. Someone who is a Wise Person.

James 3:13





**5. Someone who Serves Well and has a
Heart of Service.**

I Peter 4:8-10



Two Observations:

- 1. You Need Friends.**
- 2. You Need to be a Friend.**

**“Friendship isn’t a big thing.
It’s a million little things.”**

Follow Up Chat Questions:

- 1. What is your definition of a friend?**
- 2. Why are Godly friendships vital to our spiritual walk? List the five reasons mentioned in the lesson.**
- 3. What is the difference between forging and sharpening?**
- 4. List the three friendship principles from Proverbs 27:17.**
- 5. What is meant by the terms “Hammers” and “Heat”?**
- 6. List the five standards for friendship mentioned in today’s lesson.**
- 7. In what way(s) have you been helpful as a friend?**
- 8. What is your greatest takeaway from today’s lesson?**