



# PRAYER GUIDE FOR FRIENDS

# PRAYER WEEK

Friendship is a valuable spiritual blessing. But it is easy to take our friendships for granted without tapping into the full spiritual blessing God intends for us. Our spiritual friendships are designed for more than common interests, and having fun together. They are designed for spiritual strength and encouragement.

There are some stories of great friendships in the bible and in church history that have resulted in great advance of the kingdom of God. Friends can support each other spiritually in several ways, like:

## Encouraging Each Other in Hard Times

Jonathan went to David and strengthened him at a time when he faced his greatest challenge and was in danger of losing hope.

### 1 Samuel 23:16–18 (NIV)

*And Saul's son Jonathan went to David at Horesh and helped him find strength in God. "Don't be afraid," he said. "My father Saul will not lay a hand on you. You will be king over Israel, and I will be second to you. Even my father Saul knows this." The two of them made a covenant before the Lord. Then Jonathan went home, but David remained at Horesh.*

## Spurring Each Other On in God's Service

Well known friends, John Newton and William Wilberforce were instrumental in the abolition of the slave trade. At one time, Wilberforce wanted to leave politics and go into pastoral ministry. But his friend John Newton could see the effectiveness and potential of his role in politics. Newton urged Wilberforce to continue his work in the fight for political change. We all need a friend that can see the call of God on our lives and who are willing to spur us on to accomplish it.

## Challenging Each Other When We Compromise

Every one of us can lose our way, sometimes in significant moments with a bad decision, but other times through a subtle erosion of values. Friends don't let us get away with that. They challenge us and seek to turn us back to the narrow way of faith.

### Galatians 2:11–12 (NIV)

*When Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. For before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group.*

## Reflection

Get together with a small group of friends this week and work through this guide together. Take some time to give each person a chance to share:

- Where they need support for a challenge they are facing.
- Share with each other the gifts and call of God that you can see in each other's lives. Encourage each other to use those gifts and to persevere in serving God.
- Challenge each other in areas you can see do not reflect God's character – gently and with respect. Pray for each other to serve God wholeheartedly.