



## Word notes

### Friendship Evangelism

Discuss as a group how you became a Christian, see how many people have friends and family as a major influence.

Read Matthew 22: 34 – 40

Take a selection of the passages below and discuss how friendship evangelism is being demonstrated

- John 4:53
- John 1:40-42
- John 1:43-45
- Acts 10
- Acts 16:15
- Mark 5:19
- Luke 19:1-10

Christians need to **care** about the people they hope to reach.

Christians need to **accept** the people they hope to reach.

Christians need to **love** the people they hope to reach.

Christians need to **establish meaningful relationships** with the people they hope to reach.

Christians need to **stay close** to the people they reach.

Christians need to **help** the people they reach get through the tough times.

Discuss how we can do the above with our friends and what it means to be a true friend

Christians who practice "Friendship Evangelism" often believe that it is evangelistic to live a perceptible Christian life in front of unbelievers, or to openly admit to unbelievers that they are Christians. That is all good but there is an argument that it is not enough.

There is a danger that "friendship evangelism" means that we spend more time making ourselves known to our friends than making Christ known to our friends.

Discuss what barriers there may be with moving to the next stage and truly sharing our faith with our friends

Challenge:

Identify some friends who you will specifically commit to sharing your faith with

Pray regularly for them and ask for opportunities to share your faith

Consider what the next step might be:

- Telling them you are a Christian
- Practical support
- Sharing your testimony
- Tell them that you will pray for them
- Offer to pray for them