

**Word notes Sunday 7/3/10 Helen Parker**  
**Jesus, Best Friend Forever**

**Summary** (read this bit out to remind cell members what was said on Sunday)

Key Text: John 15:12-17

“I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.”

It’s pretty awesome that Jesus, God’s only begotten Son and creator of the universe wants to have a friendship with you and me. That Jesus is looking for a comfortable and personal interaction as a friend is mind-blowing once we really take it in. This is new for those that heard him say these words – in the Old Testament only Abraham (2 Chron. 20:7, Isa. 41:8) and Moses (Ex 33:11) are called friends of God – can we really have that same relationship?

Helen asked 3 big questions:

- A. What is Jesus like as a friend?
- B. How do we become a friend of Jesus?
- C. Can we really call Jesus a friend and pray to him in that way?

The implications of the main passage are that Jesus calls us to be ‘friends like him’; in fact our friendship is conditioned by us doing this – by obeying his commands to love.

In summary:

- Jesus is the best and most reliable friend we’ll ever have.
- Jesus wants to be our friend but will not force himself, we need to choose to accept his friendship and then be prepared to work at the relationship.
- In response we must break down the barriers of religiosity and enter the warm and loving, easy relationship.

**Application** (this is the bit where cell members get to participate. Lead discussions around these points)

What is your memory of your best friend at school? – Ask one or two people to share what they did together, how they related to each other, what challenges were there to the relationship?

As an adult, do you have people who you would call friend? Ask some to share what makes that person a friend.

What aspects of friendship with Jesus can you find in the passage that are similar to your everyday friendships?

What does the passage say are the “entry requirements” for friendship with Jesus and what does that mean in your day-to-day life?

What is your personal understanding of your relationship with Jesus: friend, brother, Lord, master, King, God? Discuss how the friendship described in the passage can be influenced by our earthly experiences of friendship or a failure to grasp in full what Jesus says here.

Prayer – thank Jesus for his offer of friendship, acknowledge the reality of it as you pray through the words of the passage. Encourage any who struggle with the reality of a close personal friendship with God to share that in prayer. Ask Jesus to meet with them to confirm the friendship he offers.

**Witness** (this is the bit where the cell talks and prays about how to share the Good News)

What does it mean to ‘be a friend like Jesus’? How does this link up with reaching people with the gospel? What will you do/