



CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Finding Friends You Can Count On

Christianity isn't to be lived alone. But, you need to pick those Christian friends that will help you get closer to Jesus and His Word.

By Mel D Westbrook MBTh

What Is The Easy Life-Growth System?

Jesus knows you and your friends have busy schedules and can't just give up your life so as to keep growing spiritually. So, Jesus has helped develop life-growth studies and prayers from the Bible. They benefit relationships such as dating, marriage, family, friendships, business, and career development. They also deal with Scriptures on financial success and emotional breakthroughs. And they provide salvation studies and special spiritual growth studies for a better relationship with Jesus.

However, your friend may not have time to get their issues worked on. That is why Jesus has provided you and your friend with two ways of getting His training principles you need. Your two choices are, "A Chapter A Day" from special books like this through wctlc.com.

A Chapter A Day Through Books

"A Chapter A Day" is a powerful personal growth system with printable books having two to three pages per chapter.

This system provides you and your friend with a way of reaching your life-success goals through just two to three pages a day five days a week.

With this study, you would set aside a time to read a chapter each day for five days each week. The first day would contain two to three pages of Jesus' Biblical truths. The second day would contain two to three pages of prayers to Jesus asking Him to put His Biblical principles in your life.

The Truth Page Chapter One For: Christian Fellowship

A Good Church

Christian fellowship is vital to us all. We can't make it without good Christian friends and people who are more mature than us. God also wants to provide us with good spiritual leaders. He wants to provide us with people who have been given special spiritual skills and anointed gifts. These skills and gifts are very important to our spiritual growth. However, finding them can be a real challenge.

Just because a building has a church name on the front and people get together to go through church services, doesn't make them a good congregation or a good church. Going to church is very important; but going to a GOOD church is even more important.

Good People

A good church must have good Christians who are REALLY living the Christian life. A good church must have good leaders who are teaching the truths of God's Word and applying them to their own life. A good church must be showing you how to establish a close and intimate relationship with God for yourself.

In other words, rather than just telling you what to believe and trying to tell you what the Bible means, they need to also be teaching you how to gradually start growing in your ability to receive training from Jesus on a personal level.

The Prayer Page Chapter One For: Christian Fellowship

A Good Church

Jesus, help me realize that Christian fellowship is vital to me. Help me understand that I can't make it without good Christian friends and people who are more mature than me. Also, provide me with good spiritual leaders. Provide me with people who have been given special spiritual skills and anointed gifts. Let these special spiritual skills and gifts help me with my spiritual growth. Even though finding them can be a real challenge, help me find them.

Make it clear to me that just because a building has a church name on the front and people get together to go through church services, doesn't make them a good congregation or a good church. Teach me that going to church is very important; but going to a GOOD church is even more important.

Good People

Jesus, help me find a good church that has good Christians who are REALLY living the Christian life. Help me find a good church that has good leaders who are teaching the truths of God's Word and applying them to their own life. Help me find a good church is showing me how to establish a close and intimate relationship with God for myself.

In other words, rather than just telling me what to believe and trying to tell me what the Bible means, they will also be teaching me how to gradually start growing in my ability to receive training from You on a personal level.

The Truth Page Chapter Two For: Christian Fellowship

Worship

Since God wants a close, personal relationship with you, He wants you to learn how to start hearing directly from Him. One of those ways is for you to worship Him through songs. You need to go to a church that helps you worship God as you sing songs. This gives you a chance to see how others worship God. And it gives you the experience of worshiping God as a church group.

Worship Services

The times of singing songs during the service are called "worship services." They are opportunities of singing TO God rather than ABOUT God. If you listen to the words, some songs will lead you to say things to God. You will be singing the song directly to Him. Other songs will have words that seem to be talking to other people about Who God is and what He does. It is better to sing to God so you can open your heart to a love relationship with Him.

Worshipping God

There are songs that sing ABOUT God and seem to be trying to teach you more information. These songs are good for learning; however, this isn't a good time for you to be learning more information. That needs to be reserved for classes, sermons, and training times like what you are doing right now in these studies.

Praise, Thanksgiving, And Appreciation

Choruses that help you tell God how much you love Him and how much you appreciate His greatness are what you really need. If you can't find a church that provides this type of worship, then you need to buy some music that does. You need to spend a good portion of every day on your own and especially on Sunday with other Christians worshipping God in song.

The Prayer Page Chapter Two For: Christian Fellowship

Worship

Jesus, since God wants a close, personal relationship with me, teach me how to start hearing directly from Him. Help me understand that one of those ways is for me to worship Him through songs. Let me find a church that helps me worship God as I sing songs. Let this give me a chance to see how others worship God. And let it give me the experience of worshipping God as a part of a church group.

Worship Services

Jesus, while I am singing songs during the worship services, let them be opportunities of singing TO God rather than ABOUT Him. Show me how to listen to the words; help me see that some songs will lead me to say things to God. I will be singing the song directly to Him. Help me also see that other songs will have words that seem to be talking to other people about Who God is and what He does. Help me find a church that sings songs to God so I can open my heart to a love relationship with Him.

Worshipping God

Jesus, help me identify those songs that sing ABOUT God and seem to be trying to teach me more information. These songs are good for learning; however, help me realize that this isn't a good time for me to be learning more information. Let that be reserved for classes, sermons, and training times like what I am doing right now in these studies.

Praise, Thanksgiving, And Appreciation

Jesus, empower me take advantage of choruses that help me tell God how much I love Him and how much I appreciate His greatness. If I can't find a church that provides this type of worship, then guide me in buying some music that does. Help me spend a good portion of every day on my own and especially on Sunday with other Christians worshipping God in song.

The Truth Page Chapter Three For: Christian Fellowship

A Friendly Church

You need opportunities to start meeting the people in Jesus' Church. Whether the church you are trying out provides a time before, during, or after church, there needs to be a time when you can meet and visit with Jesus' people. You need to meet Christians of your own age, life situation, and spiritual level. The church needs to be made up of people who are friendly and willing to meet new people. They need to help you feel welcome and a part of the group.

Getting Acquainted

If you find yourself standing around by yourself, you **MAY** be at a church where new people aren't able to meet the people of the congregation. Talk to those who welcome you at the door; see if there is a special meeting you can attend where you can get acquainted with new people. There may be a time and a place where people get together to get acquainted. Also, there may be those who are willing to take you around and introduce you to some of the people of the church.

Join Special Groups

There may be special age group meetings that you can attend. The handout they give you at the door may tell about age group meetings, special bulletins may be posted in the entrance to the church building, and fliers may be laid around in certain places that tell about other church meetings. They may have a booth or table where helpful people stand to answer questions.

Give Them A Chance

You may need to fill out a card that gives some of your personal information. This may invite someone to call, text, or email you and chat with you about your experience at the church. This can give you a chance to ask questions and find out how to meet those of your own age. But, if it becomes too difficult getting in touch with the people in the church, you may need to keep searching. Just pray and ask God to guide you concerning how much effort you should put into trying to meet the people in that church.

The Prayer Page Chapter Three For: Christian Fellowship

A Friendly Church

Jesus, help me find opportunities to start meeting the people in Your Church. Whether the church I am trying out provides a time before, during, or after church, help me find the time when I can meet and visit with Your people. Guide me in meeting Christians my own age, life situation, and spiritual level. Help me find a church that is made up of people who are friendly and willing to meet new people. Let me find one that helps me feel welcome and a part of the group.

Getting Acquainted

Jesus, if I find myself standing around by myself, help me decide whether or not I am at a church where new people aren't able to meet the people of the congregation. Give me the power to talk to those who welcome me at the door; help me find out if there is a special meeting I can attend where I can get acquainted with new people. If there is a time and a place where people get together to get acquainted, help me join it. If there are those who are willing to take me around and introduce me to some of the people of the church, help us get together.

Join Special Groups

Jesus, if there are special age group meetings that I can attend, empower me to be able to go to them. If the handout they give me at the door, special bulletins posted in the entrance to the church building, or fliers laid around in certain places that tell about age group meetings, help me go to them. If they have a booth or table where helpful people stand to answer questions, help me go talk to them.

Give Them A Chance

Jesus, if I need to fill out a card that gives some of my personal information, help me decide whether or not to give it. If I fill it out and it invites someone to call, text, or email me or chat with me about my experience at the church, give me the words to say and the questions to ask. If You want me to ask questions and find out how to meet those of my own age, guide me in the conversation. But, if it becomes too difficult getting in touch with the people in the church, help me know how and when to keep searching. Jesus, guide me concerning how much effort I should put into trying to meet the people in the church I am currently trying out.

The Truth Page Chapter Four For: Christian Fellowship

A Christian Leader

You need to be around spiritual leaders who can provide you with sermons and teaching that will help you with your life. There are three types of Christian leaders that can help you with “live” input. There are those who preach sermons and present good information that encourages you to keep moving forward in God. There are those who teach a lot of Scriptures and make sure you are learning God’s Word. And, there are those who counsel you and help you with personal problems with life issues.

Since you are already going through the studies on this website, a lot of your spiritual needs are being met. However, it is good to get additional information that comes from different perspectives. God will guide you to those spiritual leaders who can add more Biblical principles to your heart.

Trust Has To Be Earned

Attending a church and listening to the message presented will give you a lot of indications as to where a church stands on the various issues of Christianity and the Bible. It will be very important that you start listening with an evaluating but not critical attitude at first.

The Spiritual Leader Test

Not everyone who leads a church is a good source of Biblical information and spiritual input. Let God guide you as to whether or not the leaders and the church are where God wants you.

- A good spiritual leader will lead you to a closer relationship with God. A bad one will lead you into a dependence on them.
- A good Christian leader will help you learn how to get your answers from God. A bad one will give you their opinions rather than what the Bible says.
- A good Christian leader will encourage you to let God take charge of you and help you with your decisions. A bad one will want to take charge of your life and start making your decisions for you.
- A good one will show you Scriptures and help you develop a questioning relationship with your heavenly Father and His Word. A bad one will insist that THEY are the authority on what Bible means and will require that you believe their interpretation of the Bible.

The Prayer Page Chapter Four For: Christian Fellowship

A Christian Leader

Jesus, lead me to spiritual leaders who can provide me with sermons and teaching that will help me with my life. Since there are three types of Christian leaders that can help me with “live” input, help me find them. Help me find those who preach sermons and present good information that encourages me to keep moving forward in God. Help me find those who teach a lot of Scriptures and make sure I am learning God’s Word. And, help me find those who counsel me and help me with personal problems with life issues.

Since I am already going through the studies on this website, a lot of my spiritual needs are already being met. However, help me realize that it is good for me to get additional information that comes from different perspectives. Guide me to those spiritual leaders who can add more Biblical principles to my heart.

Trust Has To Be Earned

As I am attending a church and listening to the message presented, let it give me a lot of indications as to where a church stands on the various issues of Christianity and the Bible. Help me see that it is very important that I start listening with an evaluating but not critical attitude at first.

The Spiritual Leader Test

Jesus, help me understand that not everyone who leads a church is a good source of Biblical information and spiritual input. Guide me as to whether or not the leaders and the church are where You want me. Help me give the spiritual leader this test; but, help me do it in love and through Your guidance.

- A good spiritual leader will lead me to a closer relationship with God. A bad one will lead me into a dependence on them.
- A good Christian leader will help me learn how to get my answers from God. A bad one will give me their opinions rather than what the Bible says.
- A good Christian leader will encourage me to let God take charge of me and help me with my decisions. A bad one will want to take charge of my life and start making my decisions for me.
- A good one will show me Scriptures and help me develop a questioning relationship with my heavenly Father and His Word. A bad one will insist that THEY are the authority on what Bible means and will require that I believe their interpretation of the Bible.

The Truth Page Chapter Five For: Christian Fellowship

Christian Friends

You need a few people who are on the same basic spiritual level as you. They need to be willing to study with you, pray with you, and have fun with you. They need to be people who don't try to tell you what to do. They need to be willing to discuss all the possibilities of what you need to do. But, as in all cases with all your relationships, they need to be willing to let you make the final decision between you and God.

Good Christian Friends

Good Christian friends need to be people who will warn you and tell you what you need to hear even when you don't like hearing it. If they are people who will only tell you what you want to hear, then they aren't good friends. However, a GOOD Christian friend will be a person who will use the Bible to warn you. They won't be trying to run your life with their personal opinions; they will help you see where you are going wrong in your relationship with God and His Word.

Friends With A Good Influence

Your friends need to be people who are influencing you to a closer relationship with God. If you find them drawing you away from your times with God, His Word, and His people, then they are bad "friends" and they are probably a bad person. Just because someone has a good personality, is fun to be around, and has similar human interests doesn't mean they are a good friend. The most important quality in a friend is one who loves Jesus and follows His leadership.

Faithful Friends

A good Christian friend is one who is willing to point you toward God during times when you are starting to think, plan, and do things that are against Biblical training. If you find yourself getting more and more excited about God when you are around them, then they are good Christian friends. If you are going through a financial, emotional, relational, physical, or spiritual struggle, they will be willing to sacrifice their time and effort to be there helping you look to God and His Word.

The Prayer Page Chapter Five For: Christian Fellowship

Christian Friends

Jesus, I need a few people who are on the same basic spiritual level as I am. Help me find some Christian friends who are willing to study with me, pray with me, and have fun with me. Let them be people who don't try to tell me what to do. Help them to be willing to discuss all the possibilities of what I need to do. But, as in all cases with all my relationships, let them be willing to allow me to make the final decision between me and God; guide me in finding these people.

Good Christian Friends

Jesus, help me find good Christian friends who will warn me and tell me what I need to hear even when I don't like hearing it. Help me find someone who won't only tell me what I want to hear. Help me realize that they aren't good friends if they won't tell me the truth. Help me find a GOOD Christian friend who will use the Bible to warn me. Lead me to someone who won't be trying to run my life with their personal opinions; let them be someone who will help me see where I am going wrong in my relationship with God and His Word.

Friends With A Good Influence

Jesus, I need friends who are influencing me to a closer relationship with God. If I find them drawing me away from my times with God, His Word, and His people, then help me see that they are bad "friends" and they are probably a bad person. Teach me that just because someone has a good personality, is fun to be around, and has similar human interests doesn't mean they are a good friend. Teach me that the most important quality in a friend is one who loves You and follows Your leadership.

Faithful Friends

Jesus, help me find a good Christian friend who is willing to point me toward God during times when I am starting to think, plan, and do things that are against Biblical training. If I find myself getting more and more excited about God when I am around them, then You have helped me find good Christian friends. If I am going through a financial, emotional, relational, physical, or spiritual struggle, help me find someone who will be willing to sacrifice their time and effort to be there helping me look to God and His Word.

The Truth Page Chapter Six For: Christian Fellowship

Friends With Unsaved And New Christians

You need to spend time with a few new Christians or people who are considering Christianity. These will be people who are less knowledgeable in the things of God than you. One of the first things we are to do when we have just become a Christian is to let people know Jesus is our Lord (Rom 10:8-10). You need to be able to start sharing and training other people and new Christians through our successes. You are to share those things that you have had spiritual breakthroughs in. You need to love others enough to share your successes in the Christian life with those who need those same breakthroughs.

Share Your Breakthroughs

There are unsaved people and new Christians who are struggling in areas where you have been set free. When they get a chance to talk to you, they will get the hope and faith they need to start trusting God for their deliverance. If you simply open the conversation by telling about some wonderful thing that has happened to you, it will be a natural and normal type of conversation. Rather than always talking about unimportant things, you can ask them questions about how they are doing. Show an interest in those things they are going through that are hurting and causing stress in their lives. Then share similar things you have GONE through and HOW you got the breakthrough from Jesus.

Be Living It First

Be careful not to share things you know but aren't living yet. Make sure you don't share things you are still struggling with. These issues are only to be shared with those who are more spiritually mature than you. They need to be people who are able to help you gain the victory over them. It is tempting to tell people things you have learned; it may be exciting information, but, since you don't yet have the breakthrough, you don't have the knowledge and skills that will come once you get the breakthrough. People who aren't winning with the information and training they are teaching you, don't know if their instructions really work; but, many share it with you anyway.

Don't Contaminate The Message

Ask God to help you only share spiritual principles with these people. Sharing worldly principles that "seem" to have worked for you will contaminate the relationship. Secular human breakthroughs, world training on human behavior, world philosophies for life, and popular fake religious systems will hurt you and your friends. People get off on exercise, food, clothing, medicine, and human philosophies. Teaching and training them in these areas along with spiritual truths will distract you and damage them.

The Prayer Page Chapter Six For: Christian Fellowship

Friends With Unsaved And New Christians

Jesus, help me find a few new Christians or people who are considering Christianity. Help me find people I can share with who are less knowledgeable in the things of God than I am. One of the first things You required me to do when I just become a Christian was to let people know You are my Lord (Rom 10:8-10). Help me start sharing and training other people and new Christians through my successes. Empower me to share those things that I have had spiritual breakthroughs in. Help me love others enough to share my successes in the Christian life with those who need those same breakthroughs.

Share Your Breakthroughs

Jesus, teach me that there are unsaved people and new Christians who are struggling in areas where You set me free. When they get a chance to talk to me, let them get the hope and faith they need to start trusting God for their deliverance. Help me simply open the conversation by telling about some wonderful thing that has happened to me. Let it be a natural and normal type conversation. Rather than always talking about unimportant things, help me ask them questions about how they are doing. Let me show an interest in those things they are going through that are hurting and causing stress in their lives. Then give me words to share that are similar things I have GONE through and HOW I got the breakthrough from You.

Be Living It First

Jesus, empower me to be careful not to share things I know but aren't living yet. Help me make sure I don't share things I am still struggling with. Teach me that these issues are only to be shared with those who are more spiritually mature than me. Help me only share them with those who are able to help me gain the victory over them. It is tempting for me to tell people things I have learned; it may be exciting information, but, since I don't yet have the breakthrough, show me that I don't have the knowledge and skills that will come once I get the breakthrough. People who aren't winning with the information and training they are teaching me, don't know if their instructions really work; but, many share it with me anyway; help me not be like them.

Don't Contaminate The Message

God, help me only share spiritual principles with those people I am influencing. Show me that sharing worldly principles that "seem" to have worked for me will contaminate the relationship. Teach me that secular human breakthroughs, world training on human behavior, world philosophies for life, and popular fake religious systems will hurt me and my friends. I can get off on exercise, food, clothing, medicine, and human philosophies. Make it clear to me that teaching and training my friends in these areas along with spiritual truths will distract me and damage them.

The Truth Page Chapter Seven For: Christian Fellowship

Helping Friends GET Interested In Christianity

As you go about your day, you meet people, talk to people, do business with people, and build relationships with people. Jesus wants us to use those contacts for spiritual purposes even more than for human purposes. If we are putting more emphasis on our human needs and interests, then we are cheating ourselves and those around us. You need to be helping a few people discover the wonderful benefits of Christianity. Some people will only see you once for a short moment. Others you will spend a lot of time with. Those who cross paths with you for a short moment, need a quick touch from Jesus. Those you will be able to build a relationship with can get a lot more from you.

The Quick Response

Jesus won't give you something to say to everyone you cross paths with. But, if you ask Him to help you know something about those people you are just meeting for a moment, He will give you special things to quickly drop into their lives. Jesus knows what every one of these people are going through. He may not tell you why you should say it; but, He will give you some spiritual statement to make to some casual acquaintance. You will have to KEEP asking Jesus to give you things to say and then ask Him to empower you to say them. The more you keep asking and LOOKING for His input, the more you will be used to help people who are just passing through your life.

Building A Spiritual Relationship

Those you want to build a spiritual relationship with must be people who are willing to allow you to talk to them about spiritual issues. As you are talking to them about spiritual things, you need to be aware of whether or not they are able to understand spiritual concepts. If they can't understand spiritual things or just want to be your friend and only talk about human and world subjects, then you need to move on to someone who will let you talk to them about the benefits of Christianity.

Preparing For Sharing

The most powerful way of getting ready for longer term spiritual relationships is for you to develop a list of all the wonderful things Jesus has done for you. If you not only use this list as a way to be thankful and appreciate God, you can start seeing ways of using these things in your conversation with others. As you become excited about these miracles, blessings, and breakthroughs, it helps you want to tell people about them. The more you add different things to your list, the more things you have to include in your conversations.

Sharing The Power Life

You can take the information found in “The Power Life” courses and go over it with those who want to join Jesus in Christianity. However, it is VERY important that you share how much Jesus has helped you, as you go through these courses. Your miracles and experiences with your heavenly Father are extremely important information. It lets your unsaved friends hear things you know for a fact are true.

Studies That Help

“The Power Life” study has two parts to it. These two parts are helpful in showing your unsaved friends things from the Biblical perspective that are vital. The first part is called: “Learning About The Power Life” studies. It will help you show them the benefits. The second part is called: “How To Get, Keep, Live, And Mature In The Power Life.” It will provide you and them the instructions for each step into and through their new life. Without these studies, you and they may not have the Biblical steps into salvation. But always keep in mind, as you are taking them through these courses, your life and your experiences with God are very valuable and helpful. These courses coupled with your relationship with God can assist in bringing them to a decision to become a Christian.

The Prayer Page Chapter Seven For: Christian Fellowship

Helping Friends GET Interested In Christianity

Jesus, as I go about my day, I meet people, talk to people, do business with people, and build relationships with people. Empower me to use these contacts for spiritual purposes even more than for human purposes. If I am putting more emphasis on my human needs and interests, help me realize that I am cheating myself and those around me. Let me be helping a few people discover the wonderful benefits of Christianity. Some people will only see me once for a short moment. Others I will spend a lot of time with. Those who cross paths with me for a short moment, help me give them a quick touch from You. Those I will be able to build a relationship with, help me give them a lot more from You.

The Quick Response

Jesus, help me understand that You won't give me something to say to everyone I cross paths with. But, I ask You to help me know something about certain of those people I am just meeting for a moment. Give me special things to quickly drop into their lives. You know what every one of these people are going through. Help me not require You to tell me why I should say it; but, help me give them some special, spiritual statement during that casual acquaintance. Empower me to KEEP asking You each day to give me things to say; then, empower me to say them. Teach me that the more I keep asking and LOOKING for Your input, the more I will be used to help people who are just passing through my life.

Building A Spiritual Relationship

Jesus, those You give me the opportunity to build a spiritual relationship with, help them be people who are willing to allow me to talk to them about spiritual issues. As I am talking to them about spiritual things, help me be aware of whether or not they are able to understand spiritual concepts. If they can't understand spiritual things or just want to be my friend and only talk about human and world subjects, then help me know when to move on to someone who will let me talk to them about the benefits of Christianity.

Preparing For Sharing

Jesus, help me get involved in one of the most powerful ways of getting ready for longer term spiritual relationships. Help me develop a list of all the wonderful things You have done for me. Show me how to not only use this list as a way to be thankful and appreciate God, help me start seeing ways of using these things in my conversations with others. Let me become so excited about these miracles, blessings, and breakthroughs, that it helps me want to tell people about them. Teach me that the more I add different things to my list, the more things I have to include in my conversations.

Sharing The Power Life

Jesus, help me go back and study the information found in “The Power Life” courses. Help me go over it so I can be ready to share it with those who want to join You in Christianity. However, help me always understand that it is VERY important that I share how much You have helped me, as I go through these courses. Help me see that the miracles and experiences with my heavenly Father are extremely important information. It lets my unsaved friends hear things I know for a fact are true.

Courses That Help

Jesus, since “The Power Life” study has two parts to it, help me become skillful at both of them. Help me be ready to use these two parts to show my unsaved friends things from the Biblical perspective that are vital. Teach me the first part called: “Learning About The Power Life” courses. Let me be ready to show them the benefits. Teach me the second part called: “How To Get, Keep, Live, And Mature In The Power Life.” Let me be ready to provide them with the instructions for each step into and through their new life. Jesus, without these courses, I and my friends may not have the Biblical steps into salvation. But, help me always keep in mind, as I am taking them through these courses, that my life and my experiences with God are very valuable and helpful. Let these courses and my relationship with You bringing them to a decision to become a Christian.

The Truth Page Chapter Eight For: Christian Fellowship

A Christian Family

A good church should provide you with all of the opportunities of fellowship and friendship that we have discussed so far. But, if you need to find some of these people outside the church you have picked, then that is a good thing as well. You belong to a huge family of Christians all over the world. With the technology we have available, there are ways of having relationships through many sources. However, the most important thing is to be sure you have people you can sit down with and talk to face to face. You need Christian friends you can go do things together with.

Finding The Right Family Members

Since no church is perfect, you may need to associate with other Christians from other churches. Christianity isn't exclusive to one church or group. You should have one church that you feel meets most of your spiritual needs. But, you don't have to make it your only church. You don't shop at one store all the time. You probably have one store that you shop at most of the time. But, that doesn't mean you can't shop at other ones when the need arises.

Follow The Bible

The most important thing is for you to find the Christians that will help you grow and share the wonderful things of God. Use the information you are learning in these studies to help you decide who is best for you. These studies will help you see what the Bible requires in a spiritual leader, a good Christian friend, and people that you can spend your time with investing in their spiritual needs.

Don't Give Up

You have a lot of spiritual needs and responsibilities. The main purpose of this study is to help you establish relationships with real people. These studies are vital for helping you in your relationship with Jesus. But, you also need spiritual experiences with live people who can talk to you, fellowship with you, and be helped and blessed by you.

Don't Give In

The things you are learning in all of these courses are to be applied to all the types of people out in the world. There are people who resist and attack you; these people help you learn how to handle persecution. They give you opportunities to stand firm in Jesus. There are people who try to lure you into sin or time-consuming, useless activities. These people help you learn how to stay on track with Jesus. There are people who study the Bible; but, they study those things that are just interesting and not spiritually growth-building.

The Bible has information that deals with genealogies of family trees, it gives lists of things that will be happening just before Jesus comes, and it presents many things happening in the future. It is important to know about them; but, they don't lead us into the steps for spiritual growth. If you know about all these things but don't do what it take to be spiritually ready for them, then you will have been distracted. In that case, you studied the Bible, but not those things that Jesus wanted you to use so you would be changed and prepared.

The Prayer Page Chapter Eight For: Christian Fellowship

A Christian Family

Jesus, help me know when I have found a good church. Help me know if it is providing me with all of the opportunities of fellowship and friendship that I have seen in these studies. But, if I need to find some of these people outside the church I have picked, help me realize that, that is a good thing as well. Make it clear to me that I belong to a huge family of Christians all over the world. With the technology I have available to me, help me take advantage of having relationships through many sources. However, help me see that the most important thing is to be sure I have people I can sit down with and talk to face to face. Help me get Christian friends I can go do things together with.

Finding The Right Family Members

Jesus, since no church is perfect, You may want me to associate with other Christians from other churches. Help me understand that Christianity isn't exclusive to one church or group. Let me have one church that meets most of my spiritual needs. But, help me not just make it my only church. Just like I don't shop at one store all the time, help me reach out to other people You want me to be with. I have one store that I shop at most of the time; but, that doesn't mean I can't shop at other ones when the need arises. Help me realize that with all my spiritual needs as well.

Follow The Bible

Jesus, help me see that the most important thing is for me to find the Christians that will help me grow and share the wonderful things of God. Help me use the information I am learning in these studies to help me decide who is best for me. Let these studies help me see what the Bible requires in a spiritual leader, a good Christian friend, and people that I can spend my time with investing in their spiritual needs.

Don't Give Up

Jesus, help me understand that I have a lot of spiritual needs and responsibilities. Show me that the main purpose of this study is to help me establish relationships with real people. Make it clear to me that these studies are vital for helping me in my relationship with You. But, I also need spiritual experiences with live people who can talk to me, fellowship with me, and be helped and blessed by me.

Don't Give In

Jesus, help me realize that the things I am learning in all of these courses are to be applied to all the types of people out in the world. There are people who resist and attack me; these people help me learn how to handle persecution. They give me opportunities to stand firm in You. There are people who try to lure me into sin or time-consuming, useless activities. These people help me learn how to stay on track with You. There are people who study the Bible; but, they study those things that are just interesting and not spiritually growth-building.

Jesus, help me really understand the difference between Bible information that is interesting and information that is transforming. Help me see clearly that the Bible has information that deals with genealogies of family trees, it gives lists of things that will be happening just before You come, and it presents many things happening in the future. Help me see that it is important to know about them; but, they don't lead me into the steps for spiritual growth. If I know about all these things but don't do what it take to be spiritually ready for them, then I will have been distracted. In that case, I studied the Bible, but I didn't major on those things You wanted me to use so I would be changed and prepared for them.

The Truth Page Chapter Nine For: Christian Fellowship

Making A Change

We will be praying for you that Jesus guides you in your search for the best church or Christian group for you. If you think you have found the best church or group for you and later discover it has too many problems, then start looking for a better one. You might keep meeting with the group you are currently going to while you are looking. Then when you find a better one, you can move on to it. Just keep in mind that it is possible you found Christians in your old church or group that you need to keep as friends.

Let Jesus Guide Others

Be careful to not try to “drag” other people off to your church from their church. Keep it clear in your mind that we are all very unique. A church that is “perfect” for you may not be good for your friends. It is possible that friends who go to other churches and groups should change. But, we have to let them decide what church is best for them. Jesus will guide them and you to the place that will best fit your and their needs.

Don’t Become Exclusive

Reach out to Christians everywhere you go. There may be something you can help them with; and, they may be able to give you something you desperately need. Be sure to tell them about this website. We want to serve as many people as we possibly can; and, you can help us do that. As Jesus helps you learn and grow in things that are vital to your time here and in eternity, it is good for you to share them with others. As these studies help you, it gives you training and spiritual skills that make you qualified to use these studies to help others.

You Are Growing

You may see yourself as being the same person year after year. We all grow gradually; and, we are transformed by Jesus through gentle procedures. There are times when drastic changes take place in us; but, we soon adapt to them and take them for granted. This keeps us from realizing we need to make some changes. We can get into a rut and keep doing what we have “always done.” Your needs and abilities last year aren’t the same as they are this year. If you look back on yourself a few years ago, you can see that you aren’t the same person. If you keep putting the same clothes on a baby, their old clothes will hurt and constrain them; they “out grew” them. That is happening to you!

We Don't Always Like Change

As we go through all the trouble of finding a good church or group, as we struggle with finding friends who can help us with where we are spiritually, we can decide that it is too much trouble ever doing that again. Just like you need to make some changes now, you will keep needing to make changes later. You have had to change from baby stores, to stores that sell things for young people, to stores that sell things for adults. Jesus needs to be allowed to help you GRADUALLY move along and make the constant changes you need.

Progressive Training

Just like these studies are designed to keep adding the next level of spiritual growth to your life, you also need that same type of provisions, friendships, church help, and relationships in your future. Jesus has provided these progressive training procedures automatically in these studies. BUT, you probably won't find things set up so automatic in your church and group involvements. You will probably find it EXTREMELY easy to settle in and be doing the same things year after year "out there."

The Prayer Page Chapter Nine For: Christian Fellowship

Making A Change

Jesus, I thank You for helping Your people pray for me. I yield to their prayers that You will guide me in my search for the best church or Christian group for me. If I think I have found the best church or group for me and later discover it has too many problems, help me start looking for a better one. Show me whether or not I should keep meeting with the group I am currently going to while I am looking. Then when I find a better one, help me move on to it. But, help me keep in mind that it is possible that I found Christians in my old church or group that I need to keep as friends.

Let Jesus Guide Others

Jesus, help me be careful to not try to "drag" other people off to my church from their church. Keep it clear in my mind that we are all very unique. A church that is "perfect" for me may not be good for my friends. Even though it is possible that my friends who go to other churches and groups should change, help me let them decide what church is best for them. Help me trust You to guide them and me to the place that will best fit my and their needs.

Don't Become Exclusive

Jesus, help me reach out to Christians everywhere I go. Let there be things I can help them with; and, let there be things they can share with me that I desperately need. Help me love them enough to tell them about this website. Help this website be used by You to serve as many people as possible; make it clear to me how I can help do that. As You help me learn and grow in things that are vital to my time here and in eternity, teach me how to share them with others. As these studies help me, let them give me training and spiritual skills that make me qualified to use these studies to help others.

You Are Growing

Jesus, I have a problem; I typically see myself as being the same person year after year. I know I grow gradually; and, I know You transform me through gentle procedures. Even when there are times that drastic changes take place in me, I soon adapt to them and take them for granted. This keeps me making changes to accommodate and meet the needs of the new me. Help me not get into a rut and keep doing what I have “always done.” Show me that my needs and abilities last year aren't the same as they are this year. Help me look back on myself a few years ago and let me see that I am not the same person. It is like putting the same clothes on a baby, their old clothes will hurt and constrain them; they “out grew” them. Keep this from happening to me!

We Don't Always Like Change

Jesus, as I go through all the trouble of finding a good church or group, as I struggle with finding friends who can help me with where I am spiritually, I can decide that it is too much trouble ever doing that again. Just like I need to make some changes now, help me keep making changes later. I had to change from baby stores, to stores that sell things for young people, to stores that sell things for adults. Let me allow You to help me GRADUALLY move along and make the constant changes I need for continued spiritual growth and maturity.

Progressive Training

Jesus, You have designed these studies to keep adding the next level of spiritual growth to my life. I also need You to design the same type of progressive growth provisions, friendships, church help, and relationships in my future. Just like You provided these progressive training procedures automatically in these studies, help me allow You to do the same for me in my other human experiences. Even though I probably won't find things set up so automatic in my church and group involvements, help me not just settle in. I will probably find it EXTREMELY easy to settle in and be doing the same things year after year "out there." Help me to resist the temptation and keep moving forward in friendships and relationships.

The Truth Page Chapter Ten For: Christian Fellowship

Small Groups

Most churches have small groups that are designed for special needs and age groups. These are helpful to meet all the special needs found in the larger group of Christians. However, there is another kind of small group that you need to create so you can not only get your needs met, but can help others with their special needs.

Creating A Small Group

It is good to work with people on an individual basis. But, you will also need to allow your friends get together. As you introduce them to each other, they will see how Jesus is using you in all their lives. The stronger ones can help the weak ones; and, you can show them all how Jesus' family is built. This small group is vital for reaching out to the desperate needs of the community. The next study addresses the methods of you finding people to mentor. It helps you reach out to others like someone reached out to you. Just like you needed Jesus and all His provisions, so do they.

Fighting Selfishness

One of the problems you can experience is spending all your time with Christians. Churches can be fun places for Christians to gather and can gradually absorb all your time and energy working on and with Christians. The building, the organization, and the people have needs that can take up all your time and use up all your energy. Be sure to stay in Jesus' plan for reaching your friends that live in your community.

It Takes Love And Commitment

Unsaved people can be difficult to talk to and help. Their life can be so bad that it hurts you to see all the pain they are going through. They can be argumentative and resistive to various aspects of Jesus' message. They can be cooperative at moments and then fail to work with you the next. They can be faithful for awhile and then drop out all of a sudden. You can enjoy being with Christians so much that you find it hard to break way for a while and help these hurting and needy people.

You Needed Someone Like This

Those you have helped to become Christians also have ups and downs in their commitment to Jesus. However, both the unsaved and the new Christians need your encouragement. You are their lifeline to starting and growing in Jesus. Just think about how important it was for you to have all those things He provided to you. Think back to the time when you didn't even want Jesus. Then think about all it took to get you where you are now. These people are depending on you to help them make the same journey. Ask God to guide you to those He wants you to spend time with. Ask Him to help you be willing to work with those who aren't much fun being with. Let Him decide where you should spend your time.

The Prayer Page Chapter Ten For: Christian Fellowship

Small Groups

Jesus, help me understand why most churches have small groups that are designed for special needs and age groups. Let me see how these small groups are helpful for meeting all the special needs found in the larger group of Christians. Now, teach me about another kind of small group that I need to create. Show me that it will exist so I can not only get my needs met, but can help others with their special needs.

Creating A Small Group

Jesus, help me see how good it is to work with people on an individual basis. But, also show me the importance of allowing my friends to get together. Help me introduce them to each other so they can see how You are using me in all their lives. Let me give the stronger ones an opportunity to help the weak ones; and, help me show them how Your family is built.

Jesus, show me that this small group is vital for reaching out to the desperate needs of the community. Prepare my heart for the next study as it addresses the methods of me finding people to mentor. Let it help me reach out to others like someone reached out to me. Show me that just like I needed You and all Your provisions, so do they.

Fighting Selfishness

Jesus, protect me from the problem of wanting to spending all my time with Christians. Help me understand that Churches can be fun places for Christians to gather; and, it can gradually absorb all my time and energy working on and with Christians. Show me that the building, the organization, and the people will have needs that can take up all my time and use up all my energy. Help me be sure to stay in Your plan for reaching my friends that live in my community.

It Takes Love And Commitment

Jesus, prepare my heart for the fact that unsaved people can be difficult to talk to and help. Prepare me for the fact that their life can be so bad that it hurts me to see all the pain they are going through. Help me accept that they can be argumentative and resistive to various aspects of Your message. Help me be ready to deal with them being cooperative at moments and then fail to work with me the next. Give me a love and commitment even when they are faithful for awhile and then drop out all of a sudden. Help me not enjoy being with Christians so much that I find it hard to break way for a while and help these hurting and needy people.

You Needed Someone Like This

Jesus, help me see myself in these people. Just like I did, those I have helped to become Christians also have ups and downs in their commitment to You. However, let me help both the unsaved and the new Christians with my encouragement. Show me that I am their lifeline to starting and growing in You. Help me think about how important it was for me to have all those things You provided to me. Help me think back to the time when I didn't even want You. Then help me think about all it took to get me where I am now. Make it clear to me that these people are depending on me to help them make the same journey. Guide me to those You want me to spend time with. Help me be willing to work with those who aren't much fun being with. Empower me to let You decide where I should spend my time.

