

(1) Although it may be difficult for some of you (and feel no pressure to participate), let each person describe an incident in their life when someone you thought was a good “friend” let you down, betrayed you, took advantage of you in some way. Did this experience in any way adversely affect your understanding of Jesus as “friend” and your ability to trust him fully?

(2) I spoke of seven ways that Jesus shows himself to be our friend. Talk about each one and describe the impact it has on your heart.

(3) John tells us in John 15:12-17 that the love of Jesus for us and the foundation of our friendship with him is based on his atoning death in our place. What did Jesus actually do when he gave up his life for his friends? What did he accomplish? Why do you consider this an expression of love in the highest degree possible?

(4) Talk about the word “if” in v. 14. What does Jesus mean by this? What does he **not** mean?

(5) What are some concrete, practical steps you can take to deepen your friendship with Jesus? Be specific. At the same time, identify some things in your life that might prove to be an obstacle or hindrance to cultivating a deeper friendship with Jesus. What might be done about them?