

## Opening Prayer

Reader 1: The Book of Proverbs in the Hebrew Scriptures has many references about the characteristics of friendships. Close your eyes and think about your own friendships as we read these thoughts from the Bible.

Reader 2: “One who forgives an affront fosters friendship, / but one who dwells on disputes will alienate a friend” (Proverbs 17:9).

Reader 1: “A friend loves at all times” (Proverbs 17:17).

Reader 2: “Some friends play at friendship / but a true friend sticks closer than one’s nearest kin” (Proverbs 18:24).

Reader 1: “Everyone is a friend to a giver of gifts” (Proverbs 19:6).

Reader 2: “Make no friends with those given to anger, / and do not associate with hotheads, / or you may learn their ways” (Proverbs 22:24–25).

Reader 1: “Well meant are the wounds a friend inflicts” (Proverbs 27:6).

Reader 2: Let us pray. O God, you have graced our lives with good friends. Be with us as we explore those relationships that are important to us. Help us to be open to new ways of relating. And may all our close relationships be but a glimpse of the love and care you have for us. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Closing Prayer

**Prayer for Lighting Two Candles**

***Our God is a faithful God, loving us no matter what and always with us.***

***As the source of all life God guides us and walks with us.***

***Aware of God's loving, faithful presence, we light a candle to the past.***

***(Pause for the lighting of the candle.)***

***We pray in gratitude for all our family members and friends who have gone before us, held fast to their faith, and walked with us in relationship. May their example guide us, especially in times of trouble and hardship.***

***And we light a second candle to the future. (Pause for the lighting of the candle.)***

***We pray in hope that the love and care we have known from others will be strengthened within us and help us to be and live as true friends of Jesus.***

***May the active, loving presence of God be clearly visible in all that we do and be a strong foundation for God's Kingdom.***

***And between the past and the future is the now, the present moment where God lives within and among us in relationship.***

***Let us open our minds, our ears and our hearts to the timeless, active, living Word of God.***

***Reading John 15: 10-17***

# Prayer Resources

Listed on this page are Scripture references and suggested music for use with the high school lessons.

## SCRIPTURE

1. Genesis 16 Love and Jealousy
2. Genesis 33: 1-17 Letting Go of the Past
3. Judges 10: 10-16 Effects of Sin
4. 1 Samuel 20 Friends Forever
5. Psalm 51 A Fresh Start
6. Psalm 103 Letting Go of Anger
7. Proverbs 22: 24-25 Choosing friends
8. Sirach 6: 5-17 Friendship, False and True
9. Matthew 18: 21-35 Forgive Us Our Debts
10. Matthew 26: 36-45 Jesus' Imperfect Friends
11. Mark 2: 1-12 Faithful Friends
12. Mark 14: 66-72 A Friend's Betrayal
13. Luke 15: 1-7 Lost and Found
14. Luke 15: 11-32 God's Limitless Love
15. John 17 Prayer for Friends
16. Acts 20:36-38 Good-bye to a Friend

## MUSIC

1. Envía Tu Espíritu/Send Us Your Spirit, Bob Hurd
2. Lean On Me, Bill Withers
3. We Are One Body, Dana Scallon
4. Bread for the World, Bernadette Farrell
5. Christ Be Our Light, Bernadette Farrell
6. Be Not Afraid, Bob Dufford
7. Go Make a Difference, Steve Angrisano
8. Pescador de Hombres, Cesareo Gabarain
9. Somos El Cuerpo de Cristo, Jaime Cortez
10. The Summons KELVINGROVE (arr. Bobby Fisher)
11. Gather Your People, Bob Hurd
12. Lead Me, Lord, John D. Becker
13. Here I Am, Tom Booth
14. Be With Me, Lord, Tom Booth