



A
DISCIPLESHIP
JOURNEY



DAVE BUEHRING
LAURI JARVIS • MONICA JARVIS • ALAINA RUTLEDGE
A L I O N S H A R E R E S O U R C E

A Discipleship Journey Kids

Copyright © 2022 by Dave Buehring

Requests for information should be sent via email to Lionshare Publishing. View lionshare.org for contact information.

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the ESV® Bible

(The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®). Copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked NLT are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation. Copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Ministries, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

Any internet addresses (websites, blogs, etc.) in this book are offered as a resource. They are not intended in any way to be or imply an endorsement by Lionshare Publishing nor does Lionshare Publishing vouch for the content of these sites and contact numbers for the life of this book.

All rights reserved. No part of this book, including icons and images, may be reproduced in any manner without prior written permission from the copyright holder, except where noted in the text and in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical articles and reviews.

Published by:
Lionshare Publishing
Brentwood, TN
lionshare.org

ISBN # (Paperback)

ISBN # (Kindle)

ISBN # (ePub)

ISBN # (Audiobook)

Cover and interior design by Harrington Interactive Media (harringtoninteractive.com)

Becoming God’s Friend

(Knowing God)

God created this great big planet for us to live on because He wanted to have friendship with us! God, our Creator, is so big that He “measured” the universe “with his fingers” (Isaiah 40:12, NLT). Our Creator designed this world for us! Even though God is so powerful, He still wants to be our friend. This thought is both overwhelming and exciting at the same time!



Lesson 1

ADAM AND EVE

Our friendship with God began with Adam and Eve, the first man and woman. God thought of everything they would need to enjoy life. The Bible says God created us in His image, so we can show the world His character, mission, and ways!

God walked and talked with Adam and Eve in the garden. They had a close friendship with God (Genesis 2–3). What comes to mind when you hear the word “friendship”? Think about your best friend. What makes the two of you close?

ABRAHAM

Abraham was called a friend of God! God, the Creator of the universe, also wants to call you His friend. He wants to spend time with you! This idea is bigger than you can wrap your thoughts around. How can you be a friend of God? God spoke to Abraham and told him the plans He had for him. He told Abraham that his name would be famous and he would be a father to many. Abraham knew God was speaking because he already knew God so well. He trusted God as a friend. When God was going to destroy a city, Abraham talked to Him, and God saved Abraham’s family. *God calls us His friend when we choose His ways over our ways* (Genesis 12:1–3; Genesis 18–19; 2 Chronicles 20:7; Isaiah 41:8).



And the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God.

James 2:23

So Abraham was called a friend of God because he trusted God and followed His ways. You can trust God just as Abraham did simply by believing in Him and following His ways. Your friendship with God will grow stronger and closer as you spend time reading the Bible and talking with God. Write this sentence on a piece of paper, “I am a friend of God when I choose His ways over my ways.” Hang it where you can see it every day.

MOSES

God also spoke to Moses from a burning bush, turned his staff into a snake, and then turned it back into a rod again! *What?* This really happened (Exodus 3–4). In those moments, God told Moses about Himself and the great plans He had for him. The Bible says Moses spoke face to face with God just like you would talk to your friend (Exodus 33:11). God also wants to make His ways known to us. As He does, our friendship with Him becomes closer.

He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.

Psalms 103:7

DAVID

The Bible says David was a man after God’s own heart. David was a good shepherd. He killed a bear and a lion to protect his sheep. He also killed a giant with one stone to protect God’s people. He became king to the people of Israel. But more than anything, David wanted to know God and be His friend (1 Samuel 13:14; 1 Samuel 17; Acts 13:22, 36).

One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.

Psalms 27:4

JESUS

Jesus is the Son of God. He spoke with God, His Father, all the time and wanted to do things according to His plan. He also spent time alone with His Father. The best friendships are made in times of being alone with that one, special friend. Sometimes we need to spend time alone with God, our heavenly Father, too. Jesus refers to those who believe in Him as friends. That means we can talk to God as a best friend! Jesus

showed the disciples the importance of time alone with God. He told them to seek the same (Matthew 6:9–13; John 5:19–20; John 17:4–5, 23–26).

After sending them home, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. Night fell while he was there alone.
Matthew 14:23, NLT

When we have close friends who don't know each other, we want those friends to meet. Do you have a friend whom you can introduce to Jesus? Write down that name in your journal. Begin praying for them, asking God to give you an opportunity to share Jesus with them.

PAUL

Saul was a persecutor, a big bully of the Church. One day, while Saul was on his way to a town called Damascus, Jesus appeared to Saul. Being God's friend became the most important thing to Saul. He had met Jesus that day, and he never turned back from following Him with all his heart. Later, Saul became known as Paul (Acts 9:1–19; Philippians 3:7–14).

That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death. . . . I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 3:10, 14



Paul's greatest desire was to know Jesus better. He worked hard to share Jesus with others so they could know Him too. How about you? What matters most to you? Is Jesus your friend?



Becoming God's Friend (Knowing God)

Sports, dances, movies, birthday parties, and sleepovers are great ways to spend time with our friends. Having fun, hanging out, and being with our friends is what makes our friendships closer. Just being with Jesus, spending time with Him, and talking and listening to Him will make our friendship with Him closer.

When you have a close friendship, you want to spend time with that person every day. The more time you spend with that person, the better you know them. It's the same with Jesus! If you will spend more time with Jesus, then you will know Him better. Seek, love, pray, and obey God every day to get to know Him better. Make this a daily routine.

SEEK – LOVE – PRAY – OBEY

Those who look for God with their whole hearts will find Him (Jeremiah 29:13). When you spend time reading the Bible, He will show you what He's really like and how to walk in His ways. Seeking God helps you discover God's ways of doing things. *As you learn new things about God, make sure you write them down.*

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul
and with all your mind and with all your strength.
Mark 12:29–30*

Every day, tell God what you love about Him. This is one way you can worship Him. The book of Psalms can be used as a worship songbook to give thanks, praise, and worship to God. You can read the Psalms out loud to express your love and worship to God. Loving and worshipping God is a way to share your affection with God and keep your eyes on Him each day.

Friends become closer by talking with one another. Prayer is talking to God about the things on your mind and in your heart. When you talk to God, He listens to you, and He will talk to you (John 15:7). *What is God saying to you?*

Take action! Obedience is doing what God says in the Bible and what He speaks to your heart. *When God tells you to do something, be obedient to Him and watch what He does both in and through your life!* (John 14:23).

DESCRIBING GOD

How would you describe yourself? How about your best friend? How would you describe what God is like? You can find a description of God, His ways, His works, and His words throughout the Bible. As you read the Bible, pay close attention; you will learn a lot about God. For example:

- He is the Word, the Lamb of God, and a Teacher (John 1).
- He is the God of miracles (John 2).
- He is the Good Shepherd (John 10).
- He is the True Vine, the Gardener, and the Counselor (John 15).

Take some time today to be an artist. Draw these different descriptions of God. To learn more about God, you can read through the above passages in John and add even more details to your picture!

GOD'S WAYS

God's ways are how He goes about doing things. Our ways are often not the same as God's ways. As we become closer friends of God, we begin to understand more about His ways and how He wants us to live. One way we show our parents our love for them is by doing what they ask us to do. Doing things God's way allows us to obey God and shows Him our love for Him. How do we learn His ways? We learn the ways of God in the Bible as well as from those who have been a friend of God longer than we have.

In the Old Testament, God gave His people the Ten Commandments to show them His ways. These include teaching us to honor our father and mother, to be honest, and to treat others with love in everything that we do. If we follow these commandments, we will walk in His ways. Keeping these instructions by ourselves is impossible! So after Jesus came, God sent us a Helper. Our Helper is the Holy Spirit; He reminds us of how we should live. You can find the rest of the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20.

Another instruction from Jesus is known as His Great Commandment! The first part of this commandment is to love God; the second part is to love your neighbor as yourself. God's way is to love Him and treat others the way you would like to be treated.



And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength. The second is equally important: "Love your neighbor as yourself." No other commandment is greater than these.

Mark 12:30–31, NLT

In the Bible, Jesus tells us how to walk in God's ways.

If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but are yourself lost or destroyed?

Luke 9:23–25, NLT

