



Friends, Friendship, and Sharing Jesus

Fall is well underway. School is back in session, our personal routines have settled into place, the leaves are falling, and the morning frost reminds us that another growing season is coming to an end. As we move into this new season, we may find ourselves reminiscing about summer adventures, special events, and the friends we met along the way.

This month, our thoughts turn to **friends and friendship**.

The Bible has much to teach us about the gift of friendship. Proverbs 18:24 reminds us:

“A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.”

One of the Bible’s most memorable examples of friendship is the relationship between David and Jonathan (1 Samuel 20). Their friendship was marked by loyalty, selflessness, and sacrificial love. Jonathan made a covenant with David and risked his own relationship with his father, King Saul, by protecting David from Saul’s murderous intentions. He repeatedly warned and encouraged David, even when doing so came at great personal cost.

David never forgot Jonathan’s faithful friendship. After Jonathan’s death, David honored his friend by caring for Jonathan’s son, Mephibosheth. David also showed respect for both Jonathan and King Saul by ensuring they received a proper burial.

What a beautiful picture of true friendship—one that is not focused on what we can receive, but on how we can love, encourage, protect, and serve another person.

In her book *Seeking a Gentle and Quiet Spirit*, Amber Albee Swenson writes:

“When the Christian community [our Christian friends] meet us with empathy and support, even our worst moments are so much more bearable.” (page 59) Our brethren, our Christian community, is the family God has provided for strength here on earth.

What a blessing Christian friends are! God uses them to encourage us, strengthen us, and remind us of his promises when life becomes difficult.

But what about the many other people God places in our lives? Some may become dear friends, while others may simply be acquaintances we meet along the way. They may not yet be part of our family of believers.

How do we witness to those friends and acquaintances?

How do we bring up the subject of Jesus?

Do you ever feel, as I sometimes do, that you need to prepare a long speech or have an elegant defense of Christianity ready before you can talk about your faith?

Perhaps we make sharing Jesus more complicated than it needs to be.

In John chapter 16, Jesus was preparing his disciples for the time when he would leave them. They struggled to understand. Leave us? Why? Where will you go? Take us with you!

But Jesus gave them a promise:

“Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment.”
—John 16:7–8

How easily we forget this important truth: **It is not our clever words or carefully prepared speeches that change hearts. It is the Holy Spirit.**

Jesus promised to send the Counselor—the Holy Spirit—who works through the Word to convict hearts and lead people to know their Savior.

What a relief that is!

We don't have to have all the right words. We don't have to prepare the perfect argument. We simply need to be willing to begin a conversation with the people God places in our path and trust the Holy Spirit to do his work.

Recently, I had a “Conversation with...” a dear sister in Christ, **Robin Doemel**, about exactly this kind of situation. I was so captivated by her story about meeting someone we will call “Anna” and the way a conversation naturally turned toward Jesus that I asked Robin if she would record that conversation with me.

She graciously agreed.

Our prayer is that you will listen to this month's “**Conversation With... Robin Doemel**” and be encouraged as you think about the new friends, acquaintances, and conversations God brings into your life. Perhaps her story will remind you that sharing Jesus can begin with something as simple as a conversation.

You can listen to “**Conversation With... Robin Doemel**” on our website or find the *Sisters Exploring the Word* podcast on Apple Podcasts or Spotify.

As we enjoy the beauty of this fall season, may we also give thanks for the friends God has placed in our lives—those who encourage us in our faith and those who may one day become part of our family in Christ.

May God bless you in your friendships, your conversations, and every opportunity you have to share the wonderful news of Jesus!