

Friend *Me!*

6 get-togethers
to build Faith & Friendship

Group resources actually work!

This Group resource incorporates our R.E.A.L. approach to ministry. It reinforces a growing friendship with Jesus, encourages long-term learning, and results in life transformation, because it's



Relational

Learner-to-learner interaction enhances learning and builds Christian friendships.

Experiential

What learners experience through discussion and action sticks with them up to 9 times longer than what they simply hear or read.

Applicable

The aim of Christian education is to equip learners to be both hearers and doers of God's Word.

Learner-based

Learners understand and retain more when the learning process takes into consideration how they learn best.



Friend Me!

6 Get-togethers to Build Faith and Friendship

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ISBN 978-0-7644-7821-5

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 21 20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12

Printed in the United States of America.

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Welcome to Friend Me!

Are you ready to move from being acquaintances who wave or nod as you pass in the halls or on the street? Ready to move into true friendship with other women and, in the process, move deeper into your relationship with Jesus? If so, *Friend Me!* is just for you!

Each week, women will gather for a session that includes food (how can you have a group of women without food included?), Bible, discussion, and prayer. Anyone can be the leader. (We call her the hostess, since that's way more fun and friendly!) Just be sure the hostess reads the session ahead of time and gathers the supplies for that session. Each woman in your group will need her own copy of *Friend Me!*



When you see this icon, the whole group will discuss this together.



This icon means women will partner or get in smaller groups to share.

Tell Me More!

Friend Me! is a flexible six-week series for small groups that compares our friendships with others to our friendship with Jesus. The purpose is to meet new friends in a fun, friendly, nonthreatening way and discover and grow a friendship with Jesus. These get-togethers work for groups of women who are just getting acquainted, for long-time friends, for special-interest groups (such as your scrapbooking group or your prayer team), coworkers, Bible study groups, new attendee groups, and any existing group. You can meet weekly, biweekly, or once a month. You could even supplement your existing weekly small group by experiencing a once-a-month get-together using this book.

How Deep?

Yes, *Friend Me!* is great for women who are already Christians. You'll be challenged to go deeper in your faith! But it's also a good starting point for women who haven't yet accepted Christ, for those who have expressed curiosity in spirituality, and for those who have put faith on the sideline. The sessions are created to allow conversations at various levels of faith so that anyone can participate and learn.

Where Should I Use This?

Friend Me! can be used for home Bible study groups, during the Sunday school hour, or for much larger Bible study groups that meet in your church.

In more intimate settings, one person can facilitate the get-together. In a larger setting, the hostess can facilitate from the front of the room, with the discussions taking place in smaller groups. Limit each small group to no more than eight people. A group of six to eight guarantees a positive experience and maximum participation by everyone. If you have fewer than six, that's OK too. The experiences will work with smaller groups just as well.

If I'm the Hostess...What Do I Do?

You can have one hostess designated for the entire book, or you may choose to take turns being the hostess. Or you might share the role, having one person prepare the snack while another prepares the experiences. The hostess of the week will need to review the Hostess Prep box at the beginning of each session, as well as the additional tips in the back of each session.

Share the Joy (and the cooking!)

If you're meeting in homes, consider rotating from home to home, and have each home hostess prepare the meal or snack for that week.

Each session has an easy snack recommended for your group. But if you'd like to get a little more involved or make it a meal, there are additional suggestions for more elaborate foods that still fit the theme.

More Hostess Tips...

Be yourself. The best leaders are the ones who are comfortable with themselves and willing to be real, vulnerable, and authentic. You're the best you for the job! Then remember that it's not about you. It's about letting God work *through* you. God has put you with specific people in this specific time and place to represent Christ to them.

Be warm and hospitable. If you don't feel comfortable reaching out to others and initiating conversations, join a group but don't lead one.

Be open. Be willing to honestly share your own life stories.

Be willing to share the load. Find a co-leader—a friend who can partner with you.

Now, it's time to *Friend Me!*



Week One

Getting Our Priorities Straight

Discover how to make friendship with Jesus and others a priority.

Key Verse: Luke 10:38-42

Hostess Prep

For the opening activity in "Getting to Know God," you'll need an open space for mingling. You may need to move tables and chairs to create an environment for lots of interaction.

The bolded sections of text in each session are for you to read aloud. Feel free to change the wording to make yourself more comfortable, if you need to. Or just use ours; that's what it's there for. Invite people to get their food before they sit down.

You'll need:

☐ trail mix

☐ beverages

☐ one 168-inch piece of string or rope

☐ pad of small (1½") self-stick notes

See "Helpful Hints for the Hostess" on pages 16 & 17 for additional tips and other food ideas!

Getting to Know You

(about 15 minutes)

While everyone is arriving, this is a good time to get to know each other and enjoy the snacks while chatting.

For the next six weeks, we'll be learning how we can deepen our relationships. We'll have a lot of fun together and become good friends as we do. But there's a higher purpose here, as well—everything we do will help us explore the idea that the process of becoming friends with each other is very similar to the process of becoming friends with God. Keep that idea tucked in the back of your mind.


Pass your books around the room, and have each person write her name, phone number, and e-mail address on the "Getting Connected" space (p. 15). You can do this either at the beginning or end of your time together.

If your group has more than six people, get into smaller groups of four. Take turns telling your first name and a true story that goes along with your name. For example, maybe you're named after a family member, or perhaps no one knows your real first name and you go by a nickname.

If you got into groups, come back together after 5 minutes and have volunteers share their stories with the larger group.

Sharing stories is a great way to get to know other people. Eating is another great thing to do together with new friends. That's why each week our food will tie into the topic we're discussing.

 **What are some ways today's snack relates to friendship?**

 **What are some ways the people in your circles of friends add variety?**

Getting to Know God


(about 20 minutes)


Find a partner you don't know very well. Say hello, and introduce yourself. Then determine who's wearing the most blue. That woman will share a story about a childhood friend. After a minute, switch roles.


After you've both shared, find a new partner and introduce yourselves. Figure out who's wearing the most white. This time, take a minute each to tell a story about a friend from junior high or high school.

Find a new partner, and determine who's wearing the most brown. Beginning with that person, share stories about your current best friends.

After you've both shared about your current best friend, team up with another pair to form groups of four. Take 10 minutes to discuss the following questions with your foursome. If you'd like, make notes in the space provided.

 Q: What were the most interesting things you discovered during our mingling activity?

 Q: Think about the stories you just told, as well as what you've just experienced while getting to know others. What normally draws you into becoming friends with someone else?

 Q: How are the things that draw us to our friends like the things that draw us to explore a relationship with God? Explain.

Return to your full group after 10 minutes of discussion. Take turns sharing highlights and insights from your discussion time.

Let's look at a story that illustrates friendship. It's about two women who entertain a friend who also happens to be a very important and influential person.

Read Luke 10:38-42 aloud.

“As Jesus and the disciples continued on their way to Jerusalem, they came to a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. Her sister, Mary, sat at the Lord's feet, listening to what he taught. But Martha was distracted by the big dinner she was preparing. She came to Jesus and said, ‘Lord, doesn't it seem unfair to you that my sister just sits here while I do all the work? Tell her to come and help me.’

“But the Lord said to her, ‘My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details! There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her.’”—Luke 10:38-42





THIS IS A SAMPLE

The number of pages is limited.

Purchase the item for the complete version.

