

# Fathers' Studies: Father/Child Relationships

"...that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

LESSON 34 OF 52

## GOOD FRIENDSHIPS

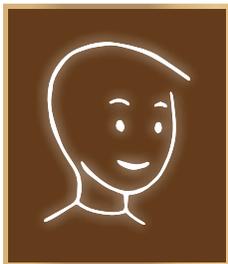
**LESSON AIM:** To show the importance of making good friends.

### KEY VERSE:

1. **PROVERBS 17:17** Friends will always show \_\_\_\_\_ to one another.
2. **PROVERBS 27:10** It is wise not to \_\_\_\_\_ your friend.
3. **1 SAMUEL 18:3** Jonathan loved David as \_\_\_\_\_ .
4. **PROVERBS 13:20** When someone makes friends with a wise person, he too will \_\_\_\_\_ .
5. **JAMES 4:4** It is not wise to make friends with ungodly people, because someone who is a friend of ungodly people is \_\_\_\_\_ .

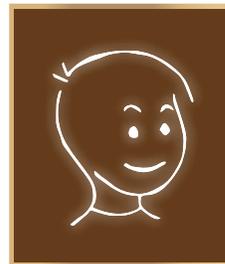
### PERSONAL NOTES:

## For You To Do



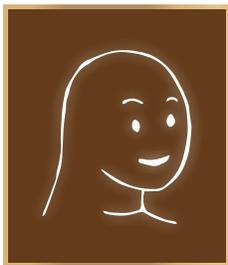
### By Yourself

If you do not have a close friendship with another man whom you respect, ask the Lord to help you develop a friendship with someone with whom you can share important things of your life.



### With Your Children

Discuss having good friends with your children. Help them develop good friendships if they need help. Take them to church youth groups, summer camps, etc., to help them build a circle of good friends.



### With Your Wife

Make sure your wife has time to develop friendships with other women.

There is a proverb that says that some friends stick closer than brothers. This points to the great strength of a friendship. Friends have a very strong influence over each other. You can greatly influence your friend, and your friend can influence you.

For healthy family life, fathers should be concerned about friendships. First, they need to develop personal friends. It is very helpful to a man to have another man as a close friend. A man needs someone besides his wife with whom he can share important areas of his life.

Next, a father needs to guide his family in making friends with other families. Families can do many things together, such as picnics, skiing, fishing, hikes, sharing meals together or evenings together for games. Families can learn from one another and be encouraged by one another. It helps children who are under a lot of pressure from their peers to do wrong, to see other families who hold the same values as their parents.

Finally, a father should guide his children in finding friends. Fathers should take an interest in finding out who their children's friends are. Fathers, make an effort to have your children's friends in your home, talk to them, find out about them. This way you can have some control over your children's friends and can be an influence for good in the lives of the friends. Make an effort to get your children to places where they are most likely to find good friends: church youth groups, Bible camps and retreats, a Christian school. During the early and mid-teen years, your children's peers (friends of the same age) will be the strongest influence on your children. Wise fathers make an effort to ensure that this influence is a healthy one.

**Friendships can greatly influence the direction of a life.**

**Work on these friendships:**

- father's personal friends
- family friends
- children's personal friends

**THE PAINS GIVEN BY A FRIEND ARE FAITHFUL.... (PROVERBS 27:6)**

## WINDOW TO LIFE

Bobby was seven years old. His family bought a new house and moved to another neighbourhood. Bobby did not want to leave his old neighbourhood. He told his father that he did not want to leave his old friends. His father told him that things would work out, Bobby would make new friends in the new place.

One evening a few days after they moved into their new house, Bobby's father saw his son outside on the front steps, looking sad and lonely. He asked Bobby what he was doing. The little boy said, "I'm waiting for all those new friends to show up."

Bobby's father explained to his son that he would have to go out and look for friends and be a friend to other boys. Then he would have some friends.

