

# FRIENDSHIPS

## SMALL GROUP PLAN

**Big Idea:** The best friendships are built on giving, not just on getting

**Scripture References:** John 15:6; Mark 9:33-35; John 13:4-5; John 13:14-15

This week, we want to focus on one specific thing—our responsibility to *be a friend* by looking out for the needs of others. The questions are very practical this week. They are designed to help students make a change in the way they serve their friends—*starting now*. You may want to follow up with them later in the week to see how things go.

### Goals:

#### *Small group Outline*

1. How is using someone different from being their friend (Selfish v. Selfless? Why do you think we sometimes get the two things confused?)
2. What is the difference between being a “pushover” and being a servant?
3. Now think of it in terms of your personal friendships. How is genuinely serving others different from allowing them to take advantage of you? (Leaders: Help your students see that it takes a strong sense of self to be able to serve like Jesus served. You may want to pull examples from the life of Jesus to demonstrate how He served.)
4. What is scary or intimidating about putting yourself in a service position to your friends? What might keep you from doing it? Are those reasons big enough to keep you from serving all together?
5. These are four ways to become a serving-friend. (Leaders pass out a note card or piece of paper and pen.) Let’s spend some time thinking of ways that we can be unselfish in our friendships this week.

**A. Get in the habit of asking questions and listening well to answers—follow up with your friends.** What is something that you know a friend of yours is going through right now? How can you follow up with them to show them that you are listening and that you care?

**B. Celebrate the successes of the people closest to you—even when it may be difficult.** Who do you know that has something to celebrate? How can you show them that you are happy with them?

**C. Don’t talk about your friends behind their backs.** When are you most tempted to talk about other people? Who do you talk about and with whom? How can you prevent yourself from talking about them this week?

**D. Do something!** What are some specific “acts of kindness” that you could do this week to show someone how much they mean to you?

### CHALLENGE:

One way to be unselfish in your relationships is to brag about others. Take some time at the end of small group to have a bragging session about each other. Encourage your students to be specific in their comments about each other—stay away from over-generalizations “you’re sweet,” “you’re really cool,” etc, and opt for more direct observations like “I’ll always remember when you did \_\_\_\_ . You encourage me to \_\_\_\_\_.”