

God's Girls Friends to the End!

Chapter Four Questions: Have you ever been friends with someone who was a bad influence on you? What did you learn from that experience?



“Yes, I learned to NEVER act like her or trust her.”

“Yes. I knew never to do it again. Especially since I got spanked and grounded by my parents. And not just because my parents punished me, but I knew that God wasn’t happy with what I did and said.”



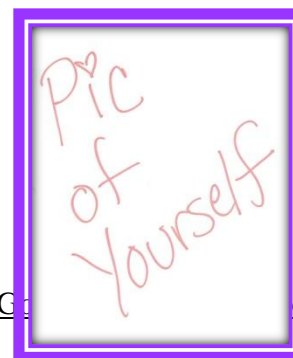
“Yes I have. What I learned from the experience was how to trust more in God than on others, because Satan will always try to trick you and others around you. If you are not fully in God then he will get a hold of you!”

“Yes, I learned you have to try hard to be a shining example towards your friends instead of always telling them what not to do. That just stirs up more anger.”



“Yes. I learned that you need to be willing to stand firm for everything you believe in, refusing to back down for even a second. I also learned that if that friend is taken out of your life, it may be because God is pruning you. He still knows what's best for you and loves you passionately. I can trust Him.”

Your Answer:



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Chapter Four Cautions in Friendship!

Read Proverbs 12:26

Why does the Lord tell us to be cautious in friendship in this verse?

Read Proverbs 13:20

This verse tells us that friends affect us.

What kinds of friends do we need to have?

What are some ways, good and bad, that you have been affected by your friends?

Read Proverbs 22:24-25

Why does the Lord tell us not to be friends with an angry man (or woman or boy or girl)?

Have you ever seen this verse come true? Give examples.

Read Proverbs 20:19

What kind of friends does God warn us about in this verse?

Why?

Have you ever had this happen to you? Tell about it.

What are changes that you need to make in your life so you will not be a friend that God tells people to “watch out” for?

Read Proverbs 18:24

You can't have close friendships with a lot of people. Why?

Luke 6:12-13

What did Jesus do before choosing the twelve apostles, who would become his closest friends?

Have you ever prayed about who God wants you to be friends with or asked Him to bring a friend into your life?

Application:

Pray and then write down what you hope will happen with your friendships in the future.



Caution in Friendship!



If I'm supposed to be friendly to EVERYONE, then why should I be careful about my close friendships?" This might be one of the questions you have. Or maybe it should be.

Proverbs informs us that righteousness, or right living, includes caution in our choice of friends. Why?

Friendship requires giving a lot of yourself, your time, and your heart. You want to make sure that giving so much is part of the Lord's will for your life. Seek Him about who you are to be close to and don't assume that because you click with someone, you are called to be friends. Your parents have much wisdom for you when it comes to choosing friends. Always get their input and do follow their counsel.

Often, we become more and more like our friends. We start to pick up their habits, values, and hobbies. We begin to tell the same jokes, use the same expressions ("What a total diss" or "J.K."), and even speak with some of their accents. The Bible warns us about spending a lot of time with angry people because we will start to become angry. On the other hand, the more time we spend with wise people, the wiser we will become.

If you want to be a better soccer player, become friends with someone who loves soccer and is good at it. You'll play soccer all the time and you will find yourself getting better and better. If you want to become more kind, more respectful, and obedient to your parents, more friendly and bold about sharing the

Gospel with people, or more disciplined in your school or walk with the Lord, then look for someone who is like that and begin to become friends and spend time with her.

When Jesus was choosing His twelve disciples, he realized that He would be hanging out with them 24-7 and that they would be His closest friends. He spent a night praying before making the final decision and choosing his new friends.



Pray and Listen!

Pray and hear from God about who you should be friends with. Remember that God will speak through your parents. They have authority from God to instruct and protect you. Ask your parents for their input and follow their suggestions about making friends. Once you know WHO, however, don't assume that things will "click" or "flow" without any hard work on your part. Friendship isn't always easy

Some of the people I like so much now were hard to get along with at first. If God calls you to be friends with someone, persevere through any difficulties you have in becoming friends. This is especially true of our friendships with brothers and sisters. Things may be going along well and then your little sister may borrow a shirt without asking or a younger brother may mess up your room. Remember that we never see the "real person" as much as when we live with someone. Other people have flaws too! We just see them more in our brothers and sisters.

One WARNING: don't think that a friendship that is constantly hurtful to you or damaging to your character or walk with the Lord is "God's will" and that you need to just "deal" and be friends. Friendship should involve giving and receiving, not one person always taking from the other. Friends should build you up, not tear you down with mean words and actions that hurt you. In seeking God's will, always talk to your parents (and godly leaders in your church) about

friendships that are hurtful and get their advice and help. God means friendships to bring joy, not destruction, to your life.

He may give you just the friends you need in someone you would never expect. Don't limit what friends Jesus can give you based on how old they are, what they look like, what they're good at, or how popular they are with other girls. When I was a young woman, one of my closest friends was an older woman named Lois. She was a grandmother who loved Jesus with all her heart and I was a brand new Christian. How thankful I am that age was not a barrier because she helped me start to grow in my relationship with the Lord.

The Bible warns us about being close friends with people who:

- *Break up relationships & friendships (cause division)
- *Get angry all the time
- *Talk bad about people (gossips, slanderers)
- *Disobey their parents
- *Do not show respect to their parents
- *Are rebellious
- *Speak negatively about people, things and life all the time
- *Teach things that are against what the Bible says
- *Preach another Gospel



If the Bible warns us to stay away from people like this, then it is not God's will for you to be friends with them!

Email and Internet Friends!

Be careful about friends that you meet on the internet. Just because someone says that they are a Christian, or even a young girl, doesn't mean they are. You can pretend to be whoever you want to online and no one can tell it out. Make sure that Mom and Dad know all about your internet friends. Make sure they are aware of who you email, myspace, instant message, and so on. Remember they are in your life to instruct and protect you. Let them



God is the giver of good gifts. He has friends for you that will make life better, richer and more fun! Wait on Him.