

Gathering

FRIENDS

The theme for discussion in February is "Friendship." For Salvationists who may have been extremely busy with kettles and Angel Tree, they may have missed out on times of connection that others had during the holidays. February may be an important time to reconnect and to make an effort to spend time together. For those who were able to hop from party to party, time to actually sit down and have a deep conversation may be quite appreciated. Make an extra effort to contact those who may have had trouble making it to a January get-together.

This month as you prepare for Gathering, it will be great for you to spend some time thinking about Jesus' relationships with his friends as we find in the New Testament and in our own lives. You may wish to introduce a fifth question to your group this month:

"You are My friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you." (*John 15:14-15*) What does this mean to you? How do you understand friendship with Jesus?

If you choose to use this question, it is important to recognize that this remains a time of conversation and not a class. The questions are worded to help people figure out how to explain meaning – not to produce a doctrinally airtight response. All our words are insufficient to describe God.

Use at least four of the questions below for your group:

- What are the qualities you value in a friend and why?
- Have you ever had to end a friendship and how did you know?
- Do you seek out new friends? Should you? What makes it hard? What makes it easy?
- Tell us a fun friend story.
- What was a time in your life when it felt hard to find a real friend?

Complete your monthly report and turn it in to the Corps Officer.

John 15:14-15



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FRIENDSHIP

Was there ever a time in your
life when it seemed hard
to find a **friend**?



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FRIENDSHIP

What are the **qualities** you
value in a **friend** and why?



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FRIENDSHIP

Do you seek out new **friends**?
Should you?
Does it come easy? **Hard**?



Gathering

FRIENDSHIP

Have you ever had to **end** a
friendship and how
did you know?

You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me.

JOHN 15:14-15

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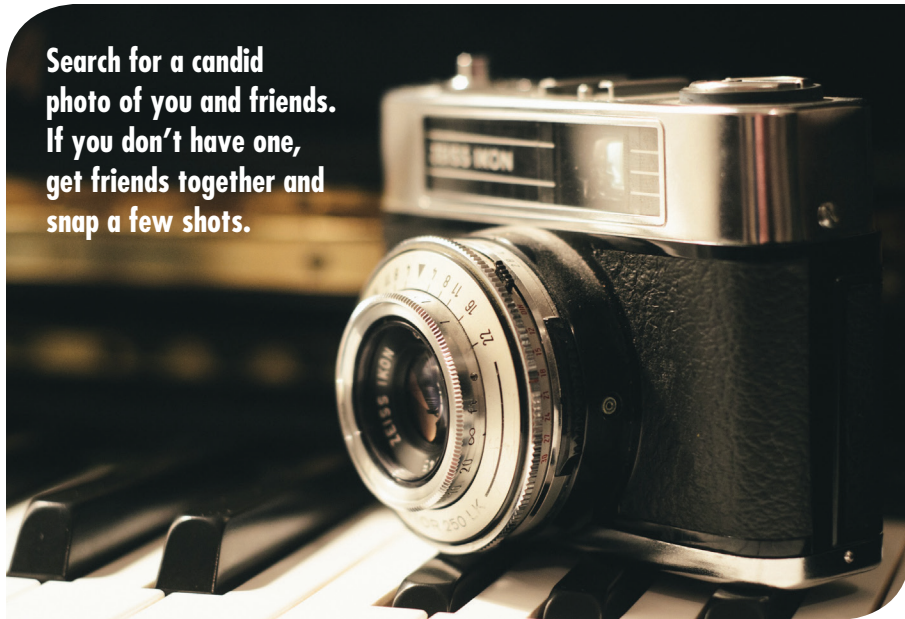
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JOHN 15:14-15

Search for a candid photo of you and friends. If you don't have one, get friends together and snap a few shots.



What were you doing in this photo?

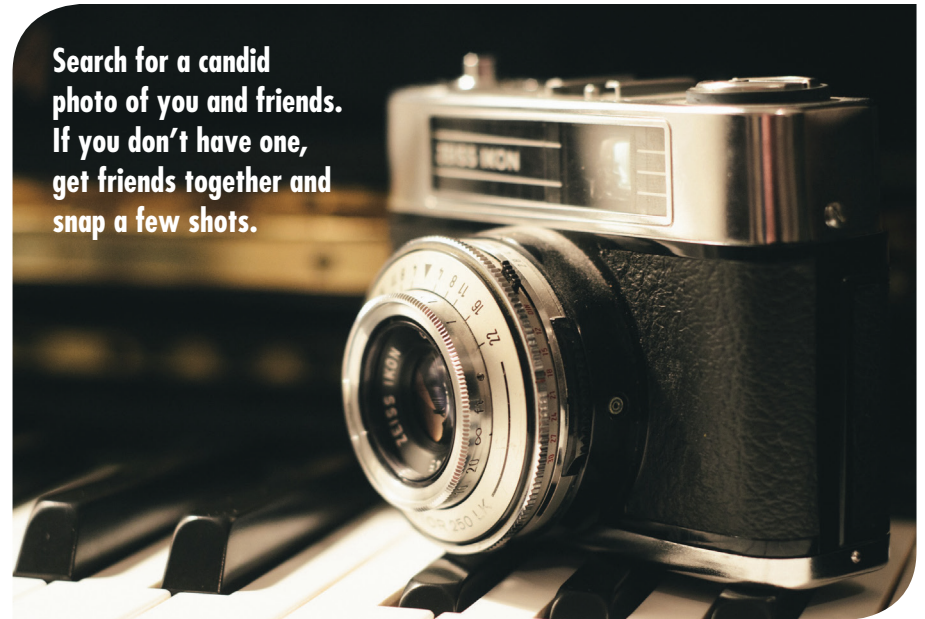
Who are the friends in this picture?

How do these friends help you in your walk with the Lord?

What are some things you can do this week to encourage your friends or make new ones?



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