

# Friend Request

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Life Group Agenda for the week of August 21<sup>st</sup> through 27<sup>th</sup>

**WELCOME (15 min)** – Welcome everyone. This is a time for us to focus outward on our relationships with one another. Share the Goals and 1 Guideline. This week, we are beginning our series titled, “*Social Networking*.” Let’s **stop and pray** for our church at this time.

**WORSHIP (15 min)** – This is a time for us to focus upward on our relationship with the Lord. Prepare a creative worship time that can be enjoyed by Children as well as adults/teens (*you will be releasing the Children to their Kids Slot time after the worship*).

**WORD (45 min)** – This is a time for us to focus inward and discover what the Lord is saying to us individually and collectively through His Word. **This week’s truth to be shared: It is important to establish and maintain good, godly friendships in our lives.**

When a person takes a moment to pause and reflect on life, it becomes clear that relationships are a key component. In our lives, it is the people around us who increase or decrease its quality. Friends who constantly makes you laugh, keeps laughter in your life. Friends who are loyal, brings a sense of peace through their friendship. Friends who are encouraging, always have words of encouragement to share.

The opposite can also be true. When our lives are void of healthy, quality relationships, they are void of a certain amount of laughter, peace and encouragement. When we have individuals in our lives that discourage, degrade, betray and hurt us, the quality of our lives decreases with the increasing influence they have over us.

**INTRODUCTION:** Who was your best friend growing up, and what made them your best friend?

Allow 5 – 7 minutes for this question.

**OBSERVATION:** Read Proverbs 17:17; 18:24, 27:17. What are the benefits listed through friendship in these passages?

Spend about 5 – 7 minutes on this question.

**UNDERSTANDING:** The passages we read discussed healthy qualities to have in our friendships, what are some unhealthy qualities in some of the relationships you have/have had?

Spend about 10-15 minutes on the next two questions.

It is important to be able to recognize the qualities you want in a friendship, as well as qualities that are not good to have. If you identify the qualities you want in the friendships and relationships around you, you will be able to recognize qualities that are not healthy nor encourage you, so that you can then take steps to establish healthy boundaries.

**UNDERSTANDING: How can we establish healthy boundaries with the relationships in our lives that are not good or healthy for us?**

In order for a person to be in our lives, they have to have permission by us. Even when it comes to employment, the boss can only be in your life, if you choose to continue working there. When it comes to friendships, we choose our friends and the type of friendships we allow to influence us. Family is a little different, because we did not pick our family, but we can choose how much influence and what role they will play in our lives.

**UNDERSTANDING: Can you share of a time in your life when a friend made all the difference in something you were going through?**

**APPLICATION:** What steps can you take to increase Godly friendships in your life and decrease any unhealthy friendships/relationships that might currently be influencing you?

Spend about 10 minutes on this question.

**PRAY: That you would be the Godly friend described in the passages we read. Also take this time to pray for one another's praise reports, needs and concerns.**

**WITNESS (15 min)** – This is a time for us to focus outward on our ministry to the world.

- ❖ Share any praise reports from your FRAN list that you've been praying for.
- ❖ 40 Days of Purpose are COMING – September 17<sup>th</sup> – October 30<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ Don't stop... SERVE LIKE CRAZY, plan your Life Groups next serve event.
- ❖ Make Shared Ministry Assignments and then Fellowship together.

*(Now is the time to welcome the children back into the group and let them share something about what they've learned. Have a brief time of prayer with the whole group before fellowship).*