**Lesson 11**

**A Friend to Others**

**Text – John 15:13**

Greater love has no one than this, that a person will lay down his life for his friends.

**Overview**

God has allowed us to build relationships with others to sharpen, encourage, and challenge one another to walk closer to Him and fulfill His purpose for our lives. Wisely use the influence you have, however small you think it to be, to be a godly friend to others.

**Lesson Theme**

A true friend is a precious treasure, and we have the opportunity to be that true friend for others. Jesus Himself is our greatest, most faithful Friend. When we extend His love to others, we can help our friends grow in their relationship with the Lord.

**Lesson Objectives**

1. At the conclusion of the lesson, each student should:
2. Look for ways to encourage and edify their friends to accomplish God's purpose for their lives.
3. Commit to being faithful to their friends, even during times of difficulty and discouragement or when faithfulness requires rebuke.
4. Offer forgiveness to friends who have wronged them.

**Teaching Outline**

* A Friend is Encouraging and Edifying
  + Encouraging
  + Edifying
* A Friend Goes the Second Mile
  + Fills needs
  + Patient
* A Friend is Faithful
* A Friend is Forgiving

**Proverbs 25:11** - *Like* apples of gold in settings of silver, Is a ([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+25%3A11+&version=NASB#cen-NASB-17125A))word spoken at [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+25%3A11+&version=NASB#fen-NASB-17125a)]the proper time.

**Proverbs 15:23** - A ([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+15%3A23+&version=NASB#cen-NASB-16831A))person has joy in an [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+15%3A23+&version=NASB#fen-NASB-16831a)]apt answer, And how delightful is a timely ([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+15%3A23+&version=NASB#cen-NASB-16831B))word!

**Exodus 17:9-12 - 9**So Moses said to ([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+17%3A9-12&version=NASB#cen-NASB-1993A))Joshua, “Choose men for us and go out, fight against Amalek. Tomorrow I will station myself on the top of the hill with ([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+17%3A9-12&version=NASB#cen-NASB-1993B))the staff of God in my hand.” **10**Joshua did just as Moses [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+17%3A9-12&version=NASB#fen-NASB-1994a)]told him, [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+17%3A9-12&version=NASB#fen-NASB-1994b)]and fought against Amalek; and Moses, Aaron, and ([C](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+17%3A9-12&version=NASB#cen-NASB-1994C))Hur went up to the top of the hill. **11**So it came about, when Moses held his hand up, that Israel prevailed; but when he let his hand [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+17%3A9-12&version=NASB#fen-NASB-1995c)]down, Amalek prevailed. **12**And Moses’ hands were heavy. So they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it; and Aaron and Hur ([D](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+17%3A9-12&version=NASB#cen-NASB-1996D))supported his hands, one on one side and one on the other. So his hands were steady until the sun set.

**1 Samuel 18:1 -** Now it came about, when he had finished speaking to Saul, that [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Samuel+18%3A1&version=NASB#fen-NASB-7678a)]([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Samuel+18%3A1&version=NASB#cen-NASB-7678A))Jonathan committed himself to David, and ([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Samuel+18%3A1&version=NASB#cen-NASB-7678B))Jonathan loved him as himself.

**1 Samuel 23:16** - And Jonathan, Saul’s son, set out and went to David at Horesh, and [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Samuel+23%3A16+&version=NASB#fen-NASB-7827a)]([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Samuel+23%3A16+&version=NASB#cen-NASB-7827A))encouraged him in God.

**John 14:1 -** ([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+14%3A1+&version=NASB#cen-NASB-26662A))Do not let your heart be troubled; [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+14%3A1+&version=NASB#fen-NASB-26662a)]believe in God, believe also in Me

**Luke 12:6-7 -** Are ([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+12%3A6-7&version=NASB#cen-NASB-25459A))five sparrows not sold for two [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+12%3A6-7&version=NASB#fen-NASB-25459a)]assaria? *(farthing, pence, pennies, cents)* And *yet* not one of them has gone unnoticed in the sight of God. **7**([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+12%3A6-7&version=NASB#cen-NASB-25460B))But even the hairs of your head are all counted. [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+12%3A6-7&version=NASB#fen-NASB-25460b)]Do not fear; you are more valuable than a great number of sparrows.

**Matthew 7:7-8 -** Ask, and ([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+7%3A7-8&version=NASB#cen-NASB-23324B))it will be given to you; [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+7%3A7-8&version=NASB#fen-NASB-23324b)]seek, and you will find; [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+7%3A7-8&version=NASB#fen-NASB-23324c)]knock, and it will be opened to you. **8**For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

**Luke 22:43-44 -** Now an ([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+22%3A43-44&version=NASB#cen-NASB-25901A))angel from heaven appeared to Him, strengthening Him. **44**And ([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+22%3A43-44&version=NASB#cen-NASB-25902B))being in agony, He was praying very fervently; and His sweat became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground

**Esther 4:13-14 - 13**Then Mordecai told *them* to reply to Esther, “Do not imagine that you in the king’s palace can escape any more than all the *other* Jews. **14**For if you keep silent at this time, liberation and ([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Esther+4%3A13-14&version=NASB#cen-NASB-12777A))rescue will arise for the Jews from another place, and you and your father’s house will perish. And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?”

**Proverbs 27:17 -** *As* iron sharpens iron, So one person sharpens another.

**Proverbs 27:9 -** Oil and perfume make the heart glad, And a [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+27%3A9&version=NASB#fen-NASB-17179a)]person’s advice is sweet to his friend.

**2 Peter 3:18** - grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**Matthew 5:41** - Whoever [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+5%3A41+&version=NASB#fen-NASB-23276a)]forces you to go one mile, go with him two.

**Luke 10:30-37 - 30**Jesus replied and said, “A man was ([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+10%3A30-37&version=NASB#cen-NASB-25387A))going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he encountered robbers, and they stripped him and [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+10%3A30-37&version=NASB#fen-NASB-25387a)]beat him, and went away leaving him half dead. **31**And by coincidence a priest was going down on that road, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. **32**Likewise a Levite also, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. **33**But a ([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+10%3A30-37&version=NASB#cen-NASB-25390B))Samaritan who was on a journey came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion, **34**and came to him and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on *them*; and he put him on his own animal, and brought him to an inn and took care of him. **35**On the next day he took out two [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+10%3A30-37&version=NASB#fen-NASB-25392b)]denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, ‘Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I return, I will repay you.’ **36**Which of these three do you think [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+10%3A30-37&version=NASB#fen-NASB-25393c)]proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers’ *hands*?” **37**And he said, “The one who showed compassion to him.” Then Jesus said to him, “Go and do [[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+10%3A30-37&version=NASB#fen-NASB-25394d)]the same.”

**1 John 1:9 -** ([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+John+1%3A9+&version=NASB#cen-NASB-30537A))If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous, so that He will forgive us our sins and ([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+John+1%3A9+&version=NASB#cen-NASB-30537B))cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**Lamentations 3:22** - The Lord’s ([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Lamentations+3%3A22+&version=NASB#cen-NASB-20377A))acts of mercy indeed do not end, ([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Lamentations+3%3A22+&version=NASB#cen-NASB-20377B))For His compassions do not fail.

**Isaiah 64:8 -** But now, Lord, ([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+64%3A8&version=NASB#cen-NASB-18894A))You are our Father; We are the ([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+64%3A8&version=NASB#cen-NASB-18894B))clay, and You our potter, And all of us are the ([C](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+64%3A8&version=NASB#cen-NASB-18894C))work of Your hand.

**Jeremiah 18:1-6 -** The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying, **2**“Arise and ([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah+18%3A1-6&version=NASB#cen-NASB-19387A))go down to the potter’s house, and there I will announce My words to you.” **3**So I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was, making something on the wheel. **4**But the vessel that he was making of clay was spoiled in the hand of the potter; so he remade it into another vessel, as it pleased the potter to make. **5**Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying, **6**“Am I not able, house of Israel, to deal with you as this potter *does*?” declares the Lord. “Behold, like the ([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah+18%3A1-6&version=NASB#cen-NASB-19391B))clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in My hand, house of Israel.

**Proverbs 17:17 -** A ([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+17%3A17&version=NASB#cen-NASB-16891A))friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity

**Proverbs 27:10 -** Do not abandon your ([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+27%3A10+&version=NASB#cen-NASB-17180A))friend or ([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+27%3A10+&version=NASB#cen-NASB-17180B))your father’s friend, And do not go to your brother’s house on the day of your disaster; Better is a neighbor who is near than a brother far away.

**1 Peter 5:12 -** Through ([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Peter+5%3A12&version=NASB#cen-NASB-30465A))Silvanus, our faithful brother [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Peter+5%3A12&version=NASB#fen-NASB-30465a)](for so I regard *him*), ([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Peter+5%3A12&version=NASB#cen-NASB-30465B))I have written to you briefly, [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Peter+5%3A12&version=NASB#fen-NASB-30465b)]exhorting and testifying that this is ([C](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Peter+5%3A12&version=NASB#cen-NASB-30465C))the true grace of God. ([D](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Peter+5%3A12&version=NASB#cen-NASB-30465D))Stand firm in it!

**1 Samuel 31:2** And the Philistines also overtook Saul and his sons, and the Philistines [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Samuel+31%3A2+&version=NASB#fen-NASB-8012a)]killed ([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Samuel+31%3A2+&version=NASB#cen-NASB-8012A))Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malchi-shua, the sons of Saul.

**2 Samuel 1:25-27** - How the mighty have fallen in the midst of the battle! Jonathan is [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Samuel+1%3A25-27&version=NASB#fen-NASB-8048a)]slaughtered on your high places. **26**I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; You have been [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Samuel+1%3A25-27&version=NASB#fen-NASB-8049b)]a close friend to me. ([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Samuel+1%3A25-27&version=NASB#cen-NASB-8049B))Your love for me was more wonderful Than the love of women. **27**([C](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Samuel+1%3A25-27&version=NASB#cen-NASB-8050C))How the mighty have fallen, And ([D](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Samuel+1%3A25-27&version=NASB#cen-NASB-8050D))the weapons of war have perished!”

**Proverbs 27:6 -** Faithful are the ([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+27%3A6&version=NASB#cen-NASB-17176A))wounds of a friend, But [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+27%3A6&version=NASB#fen-NASB-17176a)]deceitful are the ([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+27%3A6&version=NASB#cen-NASB-17176B))kisses of an enemy.

**1Chronicles 3:5 -** These were *the children* born to him in Jerusalem: Shimea, Shobab, Nathan, and ([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1Chronicles+3%3A5&version=NASB#cen-NASB-10367B))Solomon, four by ([C](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1Chronicles+3%3A5&version=NASB#cen-NASB-10367C))Bath-shua the daughter of Ammiel;

**Matthew 26:56 -** But all this has taken place so that ([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+26%3A56+&version=NASB#cen-NASB-24108A))the Scriptures of the prophets will be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples left Him and fled.

**Mark 14: 50 -** And [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+14%3A+50&version=NASB#fen-NASB-24799a)]His disciples all left Him and fled.

**John 19:26-27 -** So when Jesus saw His mother, and ([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+19%3A26-27&version=NASB#cen-NASB-26844A))the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He \*said to His mother, “([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+19%3A26-27&version=NASB#cen-NASB-26844B))Woman, behold, your son!” **27**Then He \*said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her into ([C](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+19%3A26-27&version=NASB#cen-NASB-26845C))his own *household*.

**Matthew 6:14-15 -** For if you forgive *other* people for their [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+6%3A14-15&version=NASB#fen-NASB-23297a)]offenses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. **15**But ([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+6%3A14-15&version=NASB#cen-NASB-23298B))if you do not forgive *other* people, then your Father will not forgive your [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+6%3A14-15&version=NASB#fen-NASB-23298b)]offenses.

**Matthew 18:21** Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?"

"I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven."

**Luke 23:34** "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do"

**Matthew 5:44-48 - 44**But I say to you, ([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+5%3A44-48&version=NASB#cen-NASB-23279A))love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, **45**so that you may prove yourselves to be ([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+5%3A44-48&version=NASB#cen-NASB-23280B))sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on *the* evil and *the* good, and sends rain on *the* righteous and *the* unrighteous. **46**For ([C](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+5%3A44-48&version=NASB#cen-NASB-23281C))if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Even the tax collectors, do they not do the same? **47**And if you greet only your brothers *and sisters*, what more are you doing *than others*? Even the Gentiles, do they not do the same? **48**Therefore ([D](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+5%3A44-48&version=NASB#cen-NASB-23283D))you shall be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

**Ephesians 4:32** Be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving each other, ([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+4%3A32&version=NASB#cen-NASB-29292B))just as God in Christ also has forgiven [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+4%3A32&version=NASB#fen-NASB-29292a)]you"

**Extra Reading**

Acts 16

1 Samuel 20:27-34

2 Samuel 9:1-13

2 Samuel 12:1-15

Matthew 26:69-75

John 20:19-29

**Study Questions**

1. How did Aaron and Hur encourage Moses during battle?

2. In what two ways can a friend go the second mile?

3. In what ways did Jonathan's friendship with David cost him?

4. What numerical value does the term "seventy times seven" represent?

5. Relate a time when someone encouraged you during a difficult time or task. What did they do that encouraged you, and how can you show similar encouragement to another?

6. Is there a current relationship you have that could benefit from your growth in longsuffering? Write down at least two ways you could exercise patience with this person.

7. Are any of your friends going through a difficult season and needing a friend's faithfulness? How could you remind your friend(s) of your commitment to them this week?

8. Friends carry a tremendous weight of influence on one another. How are you using the influence you carry to encourage your friends to love the Lord more and walk closer to Him? What could you do this week to use your influence for God?

**Memory Verse**

**13**([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+15%3A13&version=NASB#cen-NASB-26705A))Greater love has no one than this, that a person will ([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+15%3A13&version=NASB#cen-NASB-26705B))lay down his life for his friends.

John 15:13