13

Friends Forever

Key References: John 17; *The Desire of Ages*, chap. 73, pp. 662-680; *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 9, pp. 70-72; Our Beliefs, nos. 2, 14, 11.



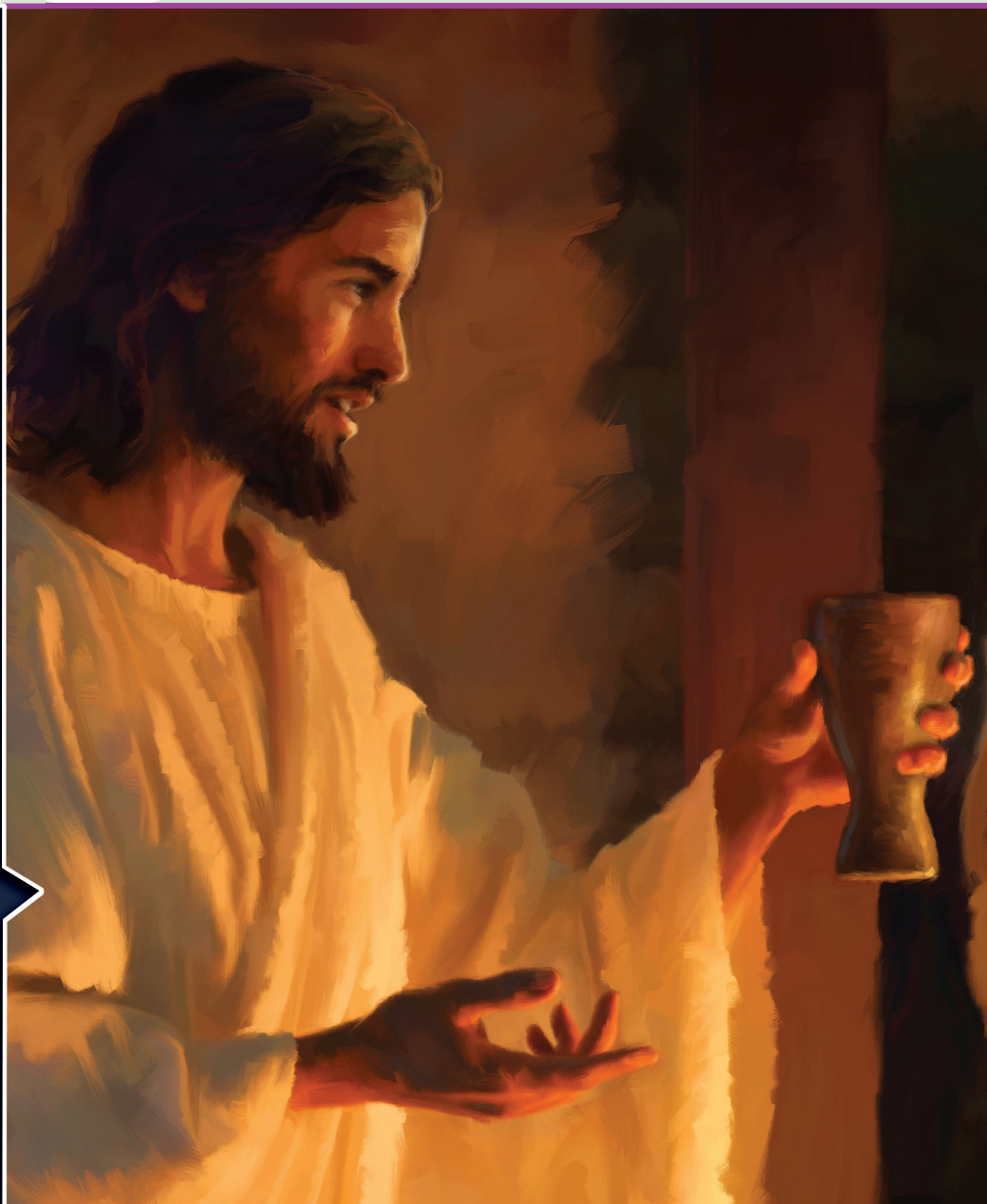












power**text**

"Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous" (1 Peter 3:8).

power**point**

God's love for us shows us how to love one another.

Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 102.

When have you been part of a cheering crowd at a sporting event? How did it feel to be part of a group with the same goal—the winning of your favorite players? Jesus knew it was good to be part of a united team.

The Passover meal hadn't quite lived up to the disciples' expectations. They had been looking forward to the meal with a sense of anticipation. Something momentous was about to happen. There was a buzz in the air that started with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Surely Jesus would tell them tonight about His plans to establish His kingdom.

The evening hadn't quite followed their plan. Jesus their Master had begun by washing their feet. The meal had been a quiet time with Jesus talking as though He was going to leave them, not overthrow the Romans. The disciples felt confused. They loved Jesus. Surely He must see that now was the time to act.

The disciples barely noticed Judas slipping out of the room.



13

Sunday

READ Read John 17:11 and this week's story, "Friends Forever."

REVIEW Review the power text, 1 Peter 3:8.

WRITE Write the power text in your own words.

THINK How will this verse change your life today?

PRAY Ask God to grant you the qualities listed in the power text.

Monday

READ Read John 17:22, 23.

THINK Jesus prayed that His disciples and all believers might become one. What do you think that means?

FIND Find the words "unity" and "uniformity" in a dictionary. How are they similar? How are they different?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God for wisdom to understand the difference between unity and uniformity.

Tuesday

READ Read John 17:13–19.

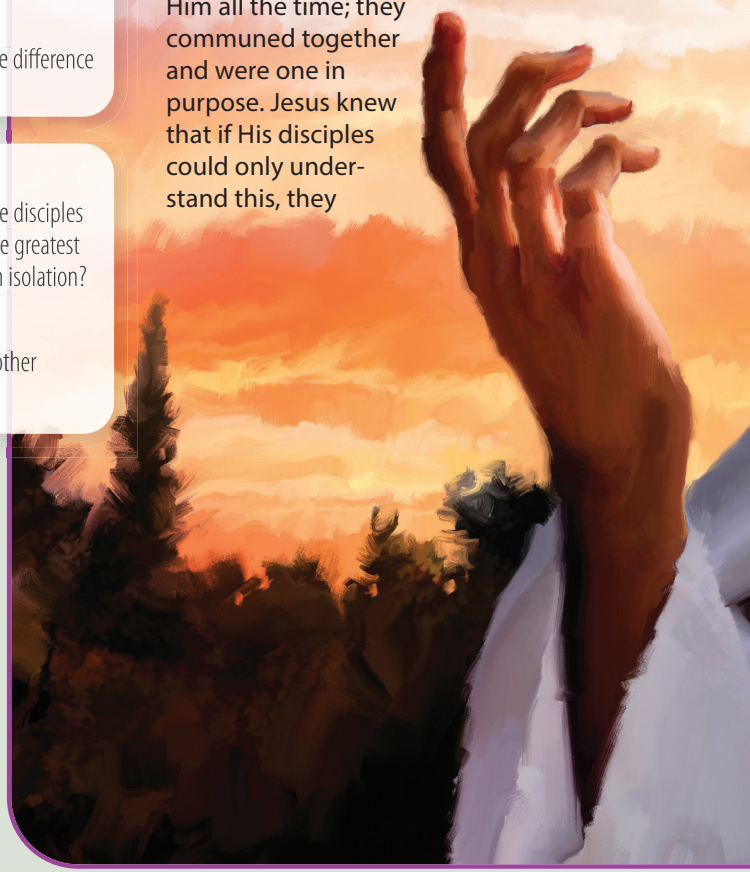
THINK Why did Jesus ask God not to take the disciples out of this world? How can Christians have the greatest influence, by interaction with the people or in isolation?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank Jesus for the gift of unity with other believers while we wait for His return.

He often disappeared to help a needy person, or pay for something; there was nothing unusual about his going early. Only Jesus seemed to notice and looked sadly after him, as if He wished He could call Judas back. Jesus looked around at the other disciples. They were His closest friends. He knew them so well—their qualities and their weaknesses, what made them happy and sad. He knew their expectations and also the pain that was in store for them. If only He could help them to understand what was about to happen.

Jesus knew God as His Father and Friend. God was with Him all the time; they communed together and were one in purpose. Jesus knew that if His disciples could only understand this, they



wouldn't feel so devastated when they would see Him being taken away from them to be crucified.

It was getting late and time for them to leave. Jesus would talk some more on their way to the garden. But before they left, Jesus wanted to pray to His Father, their Father as well, who loved them just as much as Jesus did. Lifting up His hands, Jesus began to pray.

"Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they may



Wednesday

READ Read Matthew 6:9-13.

COMPARE Compare Jesus' last prayer in John 17 with His prayer known as the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6:9-13.

THINK For whom and for what are you praying?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Use as a model Jesus' prayer as you talk to God.

Thursday

READ Read Colossians 3:12-14.

DO Cut a six-inch (15-centimeter) piece of thread. Cut eight pieces of thread and bind them together. Break a single strand of six-inch thread and then break the second, thicker combined thread. Which was easier to break?

NOTICE When all believers or friends combine their strength in Christ, they have greater influence for good.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God for wisdom to promote unity.

Friday

READ Read John 17:1-5 with your family.

SHARE Share what you have learned about Jesus' prayer for unity.

ASK Ask each family member to share what unity in Jesus means to them.

REPEAT Say the power text by memory.

PRAY Praise God for the unity He has promised to believers. Ask Him to bring that unity into your family.

know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do."

"I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth."

"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me."

"Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world" (John 17:1-4, 14-17, 20, 21, 24).

Jesus longed to help His disciples understand the bond of unity that existed between Him and the Father. Oh, how He longed to help them understand the events that would lead up to His crucifixion and death. Only if their faith rested entirely in God would they recognize that Jesus was the Son of God. Only then would they be able to stand in the hour of trial. Then they

would comprehend that Jesus was sent from God to sacrifice His life to save us from sin and eternal death. Through this prayer Jesus entrusted His disciples to the Father's care. He interceded for them and for everyone who would believe in Him as our rightful high priest.

Sadly, the disciples did not understand at that time the meaning of Jesus' words. Their spiritual eyes were still dimmed by their own expectations. They failed to understand Jesus' mission. That night Judas betrayed Jesus. The disciples spent a weekend of lonely despair. But after Jesus' resurrection they would remember this prayer of Jesus. They would understand that truly the key to victory is found in communion with God. If we seek to become one with Jesus, He will enable us to reflect His love to the world around us. Remember, Jesus prayed that we would be one with God so that the world would believe that the Father had sent Jesus to save the world. Let's decide to have a living connection with God and pray that the world will come to know Jesus and the love of the Father through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.



PUZZLE
13

SPECIAL FRIENDS

Fill in the Blanks: Fill in the missing word from the word bank. Words are only used once. Texts are given to help you.

ask	boat	cry	dragnet	enemies	eternal	faithfulness	feet
friends	gathers	gave	hear	kingdom	liar	love	need
neighbor	one	peaceably	sight	sorrowful	top	troubled	wash

1. "Live _____ with all men" (Romans 12:18).
2. "This is _____ life, that they may know You, the only true God" (John 17:3).
3. "He [the devil] is a _____ and the father of it" (John 8:44).
4. "We _____ out, 'Abba, Father'" (Romans 8:15).
5. "I have called you _____" (John 15:15).
6. "Rabboni, that I may receive my _____" (Mark 10:51).
7. "[Jesus] began to wash the disciples' _____" (John 13:5).
8. "Let not your heart be _____" (John 14:1).
9. "Love your _____" (Matthew 5:44).
10. "_____, and it will be given to you" (Luke 11:9).
11. "This is My beloved Son. _____ Him!" (Mark 9:7).
12. "Greater _____ has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends" (John 15:13).
13. "Love your _____ as yourself" (Matthew 19:19).
14. "My God shall supply all your _____" (Philippians 4:19).
15. "She began to _____ His feet with her tears" (Luke 7:38).
16. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, _____" (Galatians 5:22).
17. "He . . . went away _____, for he had great possessions" (Mark 10:22).
18. "Immediately they left the _____ and their father, and followed Him" (Matthew 4:22).
19. "The kingdom of heaven is like a _____ that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind" (Matthew 13:47).
20. "As a hen _____ her brood under her wings" (Luke 13:34).
21. "That they may be _____ just as We are one" (John 17:22).
22. "Then the veil of the temple was torn in two from _____ to bottom" (Mark 15:38).
23. "Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the _____ of heaven' " (Matthew 19:14).
24. "For God so love the world that He _____ His only begotten Son" (John 3:16).