

# Relating to Family & Friends



"The greatest benefits conferred on human life, fatherhood, motherhood, childhood, home, become the greatest curse if Jesus Christ is not the head."

**OSWALD CHAMBERS**



**PRAY FIRST:** Through the law may we die to the law, then look with wonder, submission, delight, to the provision thou hast made for the glory of thy Name in the salvation of sinners. Give us a hope that makes us not ashamed, a love that excites to holy obedience, a joy in thee that is our strength, a faith in thy Son who loved us and died for us.

## Understanding the Truth

### Discussion:

- Since giving your life to Jesus Christ, have your relationships with your friends and family changed? How so?

## What Should You Expect?

- A. According to 1 Peter 4:4-5, what happens when your *lifestyle changes* because of your new found relationship with Jesus Christ?
- B. Why do they do this, according to these two verses?
- 2 Corinthians 4:3-4: \_\_\_\_\_
  - John 3:19-20: \_\_\_\_\_
- C. According to 1 Peter 4:14, what is true of you when you are treated harshly because of your faith?
- D. What did the writer of Hebrews tell the Hebrew believers who were facing persecution and contemplating whether to go back to an easier way? (*Read Hebrews 10:32-36.*)
- E. What did Paul tell young Timothy to expect as he tried to live a godly life? (*Read 2 Timothy 3:12.*)

## What Should You Do?

Read the following verses and write down how we are to respond when treated harshly by friends, foes, or family:

- Matthew 5:12: \_\_\_\_\_
- Matthew 5:44: \_\_\_\_\_
- Matthew 6:14-15: \_\_\_\_\_
- Matthew 10:21-22: \_\_\_\_\_
- Matthew 10:16: \_\_\_\_\_

## Is it Okay to Hang Out With Unsaved Friends?

- A. Read Matthew 9:10-13. What did Jesus do in relationship to lost sinners?

Jesus befriended sinners for the sake of showing them *the love of God*, but He did not build any binding relationships with them.

- B. According to 1 Corinthians 15:33, what is the danger of hanging out with unsaved friends?
  
- C. Read 1 Peter 2:12. What does Peter tell us to do in relating to unsaved friends and family? Why?

**Embracing the Truth**  
Knitting the truth of God's Word into our lives



- List the names of friends or family members who are lost and need the love of Jesus:
  
- Close this study by calling each of their names before the Lord for salvation and making yourself available to demonstrate the love of Christ to them.

**APPLICATION**

**Being a doer of the Word**

1. What did I learn ("teaching")?
2. Where do I fall short ("reproof")?
3. What do I need to do about it ("correction")?
4. How can I make this a consistent part of my life ("training")?



**ACCOUNTABILITY**

**Placing yourself in transparent and accountable relationships**

How are you doing in the area of **MARRIAGE** and **FAMILY**?

- How is your family joy and harmony?  
(Unstable) 1      2      3      4      5      6      7      (Stable)
  
- How well have you loved your spouse this past week?  
(Unstable) 1      2      3      4      5      6      7      (Stable)
  
- How well have you loved your children this past week?  
(Unstable) 1      2      3      4      5      6      7      (Stable)

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## Obeying the Truth—your mission this week

Engaging the lost through word and deed with the intention of imparting the Gospel

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- Ask unsaved friends and family how you can specifically pray for them.



### MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK: 1 Corinthians 15:33

*"Do not be deceived: Bad company corrupts good morals."*



### EXTRA RESOURCES FOR THE VAULT

Begg, Alistair. "FRANgelism". For the Church. <http://ftc.co/resource-library/blog-entries/our-relatives-and-friends-without-christ>. Web. 21 December 2015.

Bloom, Jon. "Jesus Also Had Unbelieving Family Members". Desiring God. <http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/jesus-also-had-unbelieving-family-members>. Web. 25 May 2012.

### What Should You Expect?

- A. People are surprised and may speak badly about you
- B.
  - 2 Corinthians 4:3-4: they are spiritually blind
  - John 3:19-20: they love the darkness rather than Light
- C. you are blessed
- D. when you do the will of God, you will receive what is promised
- E. persecution

### What Should You Do?

- Matthew 5:12: rejoice and be glad
- Matthew 5:44: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you
- Matthew 6:14-15: forgive
- Matthew 10:21-22: endure to the end
- Matthew 10:16: be wise as serpents and innocent as doves

### Is it Okay to Hang Out With Unsaved Friends?

- A. He befriended them to show them the love of God
- B. bad company corrupts good morals
- C. keep your behavior excellent, so they may glorify God

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Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture references are from the New American Standard Bible: 1960, 1962, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1975, 1977, 1995 by the Lockman Foundation.