

Spoke 1. Luke 5:17

...You are indeed My friends, because I have told you everything the Father told Me. John 15:14-15

Spoke 2. Luke 5:18-19

The Son of Man came eating and drinking, so they say, “Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.” Matt.11:19, Lk.7:34

Spoke 3. Luke 5:20

I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity... Luke 11:8

Spoke 4. Luke 5:21-23

No one has greater love than to lay down ones life for ones friends.Jn 15:13
Do not fear their intimidation, nor be shaken. But in your hearts elevate Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to articulate a defence to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the invisible assurance that you have.
But respond with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who slander you will be put to shame by your good behaviour in Christ. 1 Peter 3:14-16

Spoke 5. Luke 5:24

What is the greatest hindrance to Christianity in India?

Spoke 6. Luke 5:25-26

...he calls his friends and neighbours together and says, “Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.”
...she calls her friends and neighbours together and says, “Rejoice with me; I have found my lost jewellery.” Luke 15:6, 9

This week's song selection

Teach me to dance / Touching heaven, changing earth / Father God, I wonder / What a friend we have in Jesus / You are a true friend / You rescued me / There's a quiet understanding / They will know we are...

Thought starters for personal reflection, or group discussion

1. Why do children make friends so easily?
2. In what ways are 'friendships between adults' different from 'friendships between children'?
3. In your friendship with God, in what ways is it a child-like friendship, and in what ways is it a mutually mature friendship?
4. Read 1 Peter 3:14-16. Which clause do you think is the key wording, on which all other parts of this text depend? In what ways do these other clauses flow from that key clause?
5. Gandhi said that Christians were the greatest hindrance to Christianity in India. What might the problem/s have been, and therefore what would be possible solutions? Is the problem similar in Australia?
6. Luke 5:25-26 closes the incident with praise. List some advantages of giving more praise.

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