

Chapter 7 Christian Friendship

I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. *John 15:15*

To the Parents:

In chapter 7, your child learned the following:

- The qualities of true friendship are Christian qualities.
- Having a friendship with Jesus teaches one how to be a better friend to others.
- Christian friendship involves responsibility and accountability.

It is quite clear in the Gospel of John that Jesus considers his friends to be those who listen to him carefully. They understand his message encouraging them to “love one another as I love you” (*John 15:12*). They know that Jesus speaks to them as friends, not slaves. But their human response to the friendship of Jesus is flawed: one of his friends betrays him, another denies him, yet another doubts his resurrection. It is clear that being a friend can be difficult at times.

Healthy relationships and friendships are necessary and important. Christian friendship has its roots in the relationship between Jesus and his Father, a relationship of equality, responsibility, and unimagined mutual love. Their love is expressed in the presence of the Holy Spirit in the world. Thus, those who call Jesus their friend create friendships with others who are filled with charity, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, and faithfulness.

With Your Child:

1. Read Jesus’ words to his friends, the disciples (*John 15:12-17*), and talk about what a friendship with Jesus entails.
2. Think about the many people you know and then think of the ones whom you call “friends.” Write a list of the qualities that all these friends possess and why you value them.
3. As a family say a prayer to Jesus, talking to him as a friend who loves and understands you.
4. Read about Saint Louise de Marillac and Saint Vincent de Paul on the Review and Explore page.