

STUDY and DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ❖ How does it make you feel to think about having enemies? What would you say to someone who said they really have no enemies, and don't plan to have any?
- ❖ As you review the scriptures covered in this message, which would you like to make a permanent part of your thinking? Are there any you didn't understand or are uncomfortable with?
- ❖ Is there a particular verse you'd like to impart to a child or young person you know? Which of these scriptures would you feel inclined to share with someone going through a crisis right now? Are there any special cautions in sharing verses of encouragement with someone else that we should have?
- ❖ Read Jesus' words in John 15:13-15. Do you think people who aren't Christians feel God's friendship? How do you explain why many Christian believers don't seem to experience God's real friendship? Have there been times when you felt God let you down in his friendship? How do you account for this?
- ❖ Have you ever experienced benefits or a victory coming off of failure? How did God help you "pull out of a stall" and keep on going?
- ❖ Where are you needing to experience God's help right now that your group could be praying for you?

Bible Versions used KJV-King James; NKJV-New King James; NIV-New International; NCV-New Century; TLB-Living Bible; NLT-New Living Translation; MSG-The Message; GW-God's Word; TEV-Today's English; CEV-Contemporary English; NAS-New American Standard; NJB-New Jerusalem Bible; Phi-Phillips NT; Amp-Amplified Bible; NRSV-New Revised Standard; ESV-English Standard

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With a Friend Like This

Psalm 23:5 (NIV) "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows."

A new scene & new images

✓ We're _____, not _____.

Psalm 133:2 (TEV) ...Like the precious anointing oil running down from Aaron's head and beard, down to the collar of his robes.

Psalm 45:7-8 (NIV) "God has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy. All your robes are fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia..."

✓ God is _____!

Finding God's friendship

1. I'm _____ when _____.

Psalm 3:3-6 (ESV) "You, O Lord, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head. I cried aloud to the Lord, and he answered me...I lay down and slept; I woke again, for the Lord sustained me. I will not be afraid of many thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around."

2. I'll be _____ when _____.

Psalm 118:13-14 (NIV) "I was pushed back and about to fall, but the LORD helped me. The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation."

3. I'm _____ when _____.

John 16:32 (MSG) "You're about to make a run for it—saving your own skins and abandoning me. But I'm not abandoned. The Father is with me."

Psalm 27:10 (NIV) "Though my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will receive me."

Hebrews 13:5-6 (NIV) God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"

4. I'll be _____ when _____.

Psalm 46:1-3 (NIV) God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.

Isaiah 43:1-5 (NIV) This is what the LORD says - he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior...you are precious and honored in my sight...I love you...Do not be afraid, for I am with you..."

5. I'll be _____ when _____.

Isaiah 54:17 (NIV) "No weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and this is their vindication from me," declares the LORD.

6. I'll be _____ when _____.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 (CEV) You are better off to have a friend than to be all alone...If you fall, your friend can help you up. But if you fall without having a friend nearby, you are really in trouble.