

A Central SERIES

# Great Friendships OF THE BIBLE



26

# JOHN 15:12a, 14-15

**12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you... 14 You are my friends if you do what I command.**

26

I Will Bless the Lord  
O Lord,  
A vindicate me, O Lord,  
for I have walked in my integrity  
and I have trusted in the Lord  
without wavering.  
Prove me, O Lord, and try me,  
test my heart and my mind,  
for your steadfast love is before my eyes  
and I walk on your faithfulness.

## JOHN 15:12a, 14-15

**15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.**

26

**I Will Bless the Lord**  
O Lord, vindicate me, for I have walked in my integrity and I have trusted in the Lord without wavering. Prove me, O Lord, and try me; test my heart and my mind, for your steadfast love is before my eyes and I walk in your faithfulness.

**This decline in real friendships and the resulting loneliness we experience are not without cost. Medical researchers and social scientists have pointed out that a strong link exists between friendship and well-being.**

**People with close friendships tend to have better health, are more fulfilled, and live longer.**

**KEN SHIGEMATSU**  
**“God In My Everything”**

**26**

**Vindicate me, O Lord,  
for I have walked in my integrity  
and I have trusted in the Lord  
without wavering.  
Prove me, O Lord, and try me,  
test my heart and my mind,  
for your steadfast love is before my eyes  
and I walk on your faithfulness.**

For the lion will suck to my jaws  
you lay me in the dust of death  
For dogs encompass me  
a company of evildoers encircles me  
they have pierced my hands and feet—  
I am counted among the dogs  
they have closed their teeth  
and for my clothing they cast lots  
But you, O Lord, do not be far off!  
O you my help, come quickly to my aid!  
Deliver my soul from the sword,  
my precious life from the power of the dog!  
Save me from the mouth of the lion!  
You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!

those who seek him shall praise the Lord!  
May your hearts live forever!  
All the ends of the earth shall remember  
even the one who could not help himself  
Posterity shall serve him  
it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation  
they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn  
that he has done it

Who is the generation of those who seek him?  
who seek the face of the God of Jacob  
Lift up your heads, O gates!  
And be lifted up, O ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in  
Who is this King of glory?  
The Lord, strong and mighty,  
the Lord, mighty in battle  
Lift up your heads, O gates!  
and lift them up, O ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in  
Who is this King of glory?  
The Lord of hosts,  
he is the King of glory!

His soul shall abide in well-being  
and his offspring shall inherit the land  
The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear him  
and he makes known there his covenant  
My eyes are ever toward the Lord  
for he will pluck my feet out of the net  
He will send his angel and guard me  
I will say of the Lord,  
The troubles of my affliction and my anguish  
bring me out of my distresses  
Consider my affliction and my trouble  
and forgive all my sins

I will tell of your name to my brothers  
in the great congregation  
You who fear the Lord, praise him!  
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him  
and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!  
For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted,  
and he has not hidden his face from him,  
but has heard when he cried to him.  
From you comes my praise in the great congregation  
my vows I will perform before those who fear him  
The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied,  
those who seek him shall praise the Lord!  
May your hearts live forever!  
All the ends of the earth shall remember

1 He makes his way  
2 He leads me beside still waters  
3 He restores my soul  
4 He leads me in paths of righteousness  
5 He will walk through the valley  
6 He will be put to shame  
7 He will not let my enemies exult over me  
8 He will put to shame  
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19 Consider how many are my foes  
20 Oh, guard my soul and deliver me  
21 May integrity and uprightness  
22 Redeem Israel, O God,  
I will bless the Lord  
26 O Lord, vindicate me  
27 Prove me, O Lord, and try me  
28 For your steadfast love is before my eyes  
29 O Lord, do not be angry with me  
30 Do not be angry with me  
31 Do not be angry with me  
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# Five ways to deepen your relationships:

**ALAN LOY McGINNIS**  
**“The Friendship Factor”**

# Five ways to deepen your relationships:

ALAN LOY MCGINNIS · “The Friendship Factor”

## Assign top priority to your relationships.

### I Will Bless the Lord

26 O Lord, vindicate me, for I have walked in my integrity and I have trusted in the Lord without wavering. Prove me, O Lord, and try me; test my heart and my mind, for your steadfast love is before my eyes and I walk on your faithfulness.

For the lionate sucks to his jaws  
you lay me in the dust of death.  
For dogs encompass me,  
a company of scoundrels encircles me;  
they have pierced my hands and feet,  
I am counted all among the dogs;  
they are close to both  
my hands and my feet,  
and for my clothing they cast lots.  
But you, O Lord, do not be far off!  
O you my help, come quickly to my aid!  
Deliver my soul from the sword,  
my precious life from the power of the dog!  
Save me from the mouth of the lion.  
You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!  
I will tell of your name to my brothers,  
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.  
You who fear the Lord, praise him!  
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him,  
and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!  
For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted,  
and he has not hidden his face from him,  
but has heard when he cried to him.  
From you comes my praise in the great congregation,  
my vows I will perform before those who fear him.  
The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied,  
those who seek him shall praise the Lord!  
May your hearts live forever!  
All the ends of the earth shall remember

those who seek him shall praise the Lord!  
May your hearts live forever!  
All the ends of the earth shall remember  
himself alive,  
it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation,  
they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn,  
that he has done it.  
The Lord is the King of glory,  
He makes his home in the high heavens,  
He leads me beside still waters,  
He restores my soul,  
He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake,  
I will walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil,  
for you are with me,  
O Lord, you are my God,  
do not let me be put to shame,  
do not let my enemies exult over me,  
do not let those who hate me triumph,  
do not let my enemies say, "We have defeated him,"  
for you are my helper and my stronghold,  
do not let my enemies triumph over me,  
do not let those who hate me say, "We have defeated him,"  
for you are my helper and my stronghold,  
do not let my enemies triumph over me,  
do not let those who hate me say, "We have defeated him,"  
for you are my helper and my stronghold.

who seek the face of the God of Jacob,  
and be filled up, O ancient doors,  
for the King of glory may come in,  
The Lord, strong and mighty,  
the Lord, mighty in battle,  
lift up your heads, O gates,  
and lift them up, O ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in,  
This is the King of glory!  
Do not let my enemies triumph over me,  
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for you are my helper and my stronghold.

His soul shall abide in well-being,  
and his offspring shall inherit the land.  
My eyes are ever toward the Lord,  
for he will pluck my feet out of the net.  
Consider my affliction and my trouble,  
and forgive all my sins.  
Consider how many are my foes,  
and with what violent hatred they hate me.  
Oh, guard my soul, and deliver me,  
let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.  
May integrity and uprightness preserve me,  
for I wait for you.  
Redeem Israel, O God,  
out of all his troubles.

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Assign top priority to your relationships.

Dare to talk about your affection.

I Will Bless the Lord

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Ordeal  
A vindicate me, O Lord,  
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and I have trusted in the Lord  
without wavering.  
Prove me, O Lord, and try me,  
test my heart and my mind,  
for your steadfast love is before my eyes  
and I walk on your faithfulness.

2 He makes his home all you  
pastures.  
He leads me beside still waters.  
3 He restores my soul.  
He leads me in paths of  
justice for his name's sake.

\* Even though I walk through the valley  
of the shadow of death,

do not be put to shame,  
and my enemies exult over me,  
for I have not been put to shame,  
and my enemies who wait for you shall be  
put to shame.  
They shall be ashamed who are  
wanton and treacherous.  
Make me to know your ways, O Lord,  
for I have chosen your paths.

19 Consider how many are my foes,  
and with what violent hatred they  
hate me.  
20 Oh, guard my soul, and deliver me,  
let me not be put to shame, for I  
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21 May integrity and uprightness  
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for I wait for you.  
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21 they shall come and proclaim his  
righteousness to a people yet  
unborn,  
that he has done it.

May your hearts live forever!

those who seek him shall praise the  
Lord!

For dogs encompass me,  
a company of evildoers encircles me;  
they have pierced my hands and feet,  
I am counted all among the dead;  
my bones are broken and crushed,  
my heart is like wax, it is melted,  
and for my clothing they cast lots,  
and for my garment they cast lots.  
But you, O Lord, do not be far off!  
O you my help, come quickly to my  
aid!  
Deliver my soul from the sword,  
my precious life from the power of  
the dog!  
Save me from the mouth of the lion!  
You have rescued me from the horns of  
the wild oxen!  
I will tell of your name to my brethren  
in the midst of the congregation; I will  
praise you.  
You who fear the Lord, praise him!  
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him,  
and stand in awe of him, all you  
offspring of Israel!  
For he has not despised or abhorred  
the affliction of the afflicted,  
and he has not hidden his face from him,  
but has heard when he cried to him.  
From you comes my praise in the great  
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Prove me, O Lord, and try me,  
test my heart and my mind,  
for your steadfast love is before my eyes  
and I walk on your faithfulness.

For the lion will suck to my jaws  
you lay me in the dust of death  
For dogs encompass me  
a company of snarlers encircles me  
they have pierced my ears  
they can count all my bones  
they are close to both  
and for my clothing they cast lots  
But you, O Lord, do not be far off!  
O you my help, come quickly to my aid!  
Deliver my soul from the sword,  
my precious life from the power of  
the dog!  
Save me from the mouth of the lion.  
You have rescued me from the horns of  
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I will tell of your name to my brothers  
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those who seek him shall praise the  
Lord!  
May your hearts live forever!  
All the ends of the earth shall  
remember  
and be filled up, O ancient doors,  
for the King of glory may come in.  
The Lord, strong and mighty,  
the Lord, mighty in battle,  
thrust up your heads, O gates,  
and lift them up, O ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.  
This is the King of glory!  
they shall come and proclaim his  
righteousness to a people yet  
unborn,  
that he has done it.  
The Lord, O God, is  
thornd, praise  
of Jacob, glorify him  
2 He makes his home all you  
pastures  
He leads me beside still waters  
3 He restores my mind  
He leads me in paths of  
for his names sake  
4 Even though I walk through the valley  
of the shadow of death

seek him  
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and be filled up, O ancient doors,  
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The Lord, strong and mighty,  
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4 Even though I walk through the valley  
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His soul shall abide in well-being  
and his offspring shall inherit the land  
and he makes known there his  
covenant  
15 My eyes are ever toward the Lord,  
for he will pluck my feet out of the  
net  
ever have the Lord  
16 If only I were as my brothers  
I would not be ashamed  
of my affliction and my trouble  
and out of my distresses  
18 Consider my affliction and my trouble  
and forgive all my sins  
19 Consider how many are my foes  
and with what violent hatred they  
hate me  
20 Oh, guard my soul, and deliver me,  
let me not be put to shame, for I  
take refuge in you  
21 May integrity and uprightness  
preserve me,  
for I wait for you  
22 Redeem Israel, O God,  
out of all his troubles



# Five ways to deepen your relationships:

ALAN LOY MCGINNIS · “The Friendship Factor”

Assign top priority to your relationships.

Dare to talk about your affection.

Cultivate transparency.

Create space in your relationships.

26

I Will Bless the Lord  
Ordeal  
A vindicate me, O Lord,  
for I have walked in my integrity  
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without wavering.  
Prove me, O Lord, and try me,  
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Learn the gestures of love.

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For dogs encompass me  
a company of evildoers encircles me  
they have pierced my hands and feet—  
I am counted among the dead,  
my bones are pierced like reeds,  
and for my clothing they cast lots.  
But you, O Lord, do not be far off!  
O you my help, come quickly to my aid!  
Deliver my soul from the sword,  
my precious life from the power of  
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You have rescued me from the horns of  
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I will tell of our names to my brothers,  
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You who fear the Lord, praise him!  
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him,  
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For he has not despised or abhorred  
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From you comes my praise in the great  
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Posterity shall serve him,  
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coming generation:  
they shall come and proclaim his  
righteousness to a people yet  
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1 The Lord is our strength,  
and the Lord is our stronghold,  
and the Lord is our refuge.  
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...is the generation of those who  
seek him—  
who seek the face of the God of  
Jacob—  
...all up your heads, O gates!  
And be lifted up, O ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in,  
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The friendship of the Lord is for those  
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My eyes are ever toward the Lord,  
for he will pluck my feet out of the  
net.  
...The troubles of my heart  
bring me out of my distresses.  
Consider my affliction and my trouble,  
and forgive all my sins.  
...Consider how many are my foes,  
and how many are my enemies,  
and how many are my haters,  
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for I have walked in my integrity,  
and I have trusted in the Lord,  
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Prove me, O Lord, and try me,  
test my heart and my mind,  
for your steadfast love is before my eyes,  
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# Seeking deeper friendship with Jesus:

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Assign top priority.

26

I Will Bless the Lord

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22 Redeem Israel, O God,  
out of all his troubles.

15 My eyes are ever toward the Lord,  
for he will pluck my feet out of the  
net.  
16 If only I might say,  
I am in safety,  
and my troubles  
bring me out of my distresses.  
18 Consider my affliction and my trouble,  
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11 His soul shall abide in well-being,  
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10 who seek the face of the God of  
Jacob,  
that the King of glory may come in,  
who is this King of glory?  
The Lord, strong and mighty,  
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lift up your heads, O gates,  
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1 My God,  
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of Jacob, glorify him,  
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pastures,  
He leads me beside still waters,  
3 He restores my mind,  
He leads me in paths of  
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4 Even though I walk through the valley  
of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil,  
for you are with me,  
your rod and your staff,  
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For dogs encompass me,  
a company of evildoers encircles me,  
they have pierced my hands and feet,  
I am counted among the dead,  
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and for my clothing they cast lots,  
But you, O Lord, do not be far off!  
O you my help, come quickly to my  
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Deliver my soul from the sword,  
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I will tell of your name to my brothers,  
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who fear him.  
The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied,  
those who seek him shall praise the  
Lord!  
May your hearts live forever!  
All the ends of the earth shall remember

**An emotionally healthy disciple slows down to be *with Jesus*, goes beneath the surface of their life to be deeply transformed *by Jesus*, and offers their life as a gift to the world *for Jesus*.**

**PETER SCAZZERO**

**“Emotionally Healthy Discipleship”**

**26**

**A**ndicate me, O Lord,  
for I have walked in my integrity  
and I have trusted in the Lord  
without wavering.  
Prove me, O Lord, and try me,  
test my heart and my mind,  
for your steadfast love is before my eyes  
and I walk on your faithfulness.

## 2 CORINTHIANS 13:14

**14** May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

# Seeking deeper friendship with Jesus:

Assign top priority.

Cultivate transparency.

26

I Will Bless the Lord

26 O Lord, vindicate me, for I have walked in my integrity and I have trusted in the Lord without wavering. Prove me, O Lord, and try me; test my heart and my mind, for your steadfast love is before my eyes and I walk on your faithfulness.

# JOHN 15:15b

15 ...I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

## I Will Bless the Lord

26 O Lord, vindicate me, for I have walked in my integrity and I have trusted in the Lord without wavering. Prove me, O Lord, and try me; test my heart and my mind, for your steadfast love is before my eyes and I walk on your faithfulness.



# 1 JOHN 1:8-9

**8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

26

I Will Bless the Lord  
Ordeal  
A vindicate me, O Lord,  
for I have walked in my integrity  
and I have trusted in the Lord  
without wavering.  
Prove me, O Lord, and try me,  
test my heart and my mind,  
for your steadfast love is before my eyes  
and I walk on your faithfulness.

Seeking deeper friendship with Jesus:

Assign top priority.

Cultivate transparency.

Learn the gestures of love.

I Will Bless the Lord

26

*Or be a  
Vindicate me, O Lord,  
for I have walked in my integrity  
and I have trusted in the Lord  
without wavering.  
Prove me, O Lord, and try me  
lest my heart and my mind  
for your steadfast love is before my eyes  
and I walk on your faithfulness.*

# JOHN 15:12a, 14

**12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you... 14 You are my friends if you do what I command.**

26

I Will Bless the Lord  
O Lord, vindicate me, for I have walked in my integrity and I have trusted in the Lord without wavering. Prove me, O Lord, and try me; test my heart and my mind, for your steadfast love is before my eyes and I walk on your faithfulness.

## 1 JOHN 4:9-10

**<sup>9</sup> This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.**

26

**A**nd vindicate me, O Lord, for I have walked in my integrity and I have trusted in the Lord without wavering. Prove me, O Lord, and try me; test my heart and my mind, for your steadfast love is before my eyes and I walk on your faithfulness.

## ROMANS 8:38-39

**38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

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# Great Friendships OF THE BIBLE



26

