

**BEST FRIENDS WITH GOD**  
**Aveleigh's Year of the Bible, Sunday July 22 2018**  
**Vacation Bible School Celebration**  
**Sermon: BEST FRIENDS WITH GOD**  
**Text: Job 29:1-5 NLT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: God is with God's people. God dwells in their midst. Listen and hear God speak.

People: Our hearts long for God. We wait upon the Lord so that we may renew our friendship.

Leader: God is our help and our support. God's Spirit moves among us to lead us in all our relationships.

People: With joyful hearts we sing God's praise. With rejoicing we call upon God. The Lord is our hope, our salvation, and my best friend.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of love, fountain of prayer, we confess that our silence is noisy, our minds filled with distracting chatter, our thoughts focused on problems and our eyes bombarded with temptations. How hard we find it to be still and rest in your holy and healing presence. And how hard we make it by driving ourselves to busyness and fatigue. God of love, usher us into your holy presence. Teach us the words to pray and the silences to keep. Refashion friendship so we may always live in constant gratitude for your amazing grace. Amen.

**MITCH'S Pastoral Prayer**

When we gather in your name, we are changed. There is no way around it. We cannot come together in your presence and not be moved. So, today we surrender to your moving and to the ways you desire to change us. Let this hour together be sacred, and may your name be made great. You are holy, worthy and full of glory. We are humbled to be in your presence. Receive our worship as an offering of praise. It is all for you. Amen.

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Job 29:4, *"In my early years, the friendship with God was felt in my home."*

**INTRO: HOW I'VE BUILT MY FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD**

**1. MAKE KNOWING GOD MY NUMBER ONE PRIORITY.**

*"Everything else is worthless compared with the priceless gain of knowing Christ Jesus. I've discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I may know Christ."*

Philippians 3:8 (NLT)

*"You will find me when you seek me with ALL your heart."* Jeremiah 29:13

**2. SLOW DOWN AND BE QUIET.**

*"Be still, and know that I am God."* Psalms 46:10a (NIV)

*"Friendship with the Lord is reserved for those who reverence him. With them he shares the secrets of his covenant."* Psalm 25:14

*"When you come before God, don't turn it into a theatrical production . . . Just find a quiet, secluded place so you won't be tempted to role-play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense his grace."* Matthew 6:5-6 (Mes)

**3. DECIDE WHOSE FRIENDSHIP YOU WANT MOST.**

*"You should know that loving the world is the same as hating God. Anyone who wants to be a friend of the 'world' becomes an enemy of God."* James 4:4 (NCV)

Jesus: *"You are my friends if you obey me."* John 15:14 (NLT)

#### **4. MAINTAIN A CONSTANT CONVERSATION.**

*“Pray all the time!”* 1 Thessalonians 5:17

*“My determined purpose is that I may know Him—that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders of His Person more strongly and more clearly.”* Philippians 3:10 (Amp)

#### **5. TRUST GOD ALWAYS.**

*“Cast all your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall.”* Psalm 55:22

**CONCLUSION:** Lives troubles are only reminders that God desires to be BEST FRIENDS with you.

**PRAYER:** Lord, as in the days of my youth, help me become best friends with God. Amen

#### **FOUR FOR THE ROAD:**

1. Who are some of your best friends?
2. What does friendship mean to you?
3. Who would consider you their best friend?
4. How could you become BEST FRIENDS with God?

# Job 29 New Living Translation (NLT)

Job continued speaking:

- <sup>2</sup>“I long for the years gone by  
when God took care of me,  
<sup>3</sup>when he lit up the way before me  
and I walked safely through the darkness.  
<sup>4</sup>When I was in my prime,  
God’s friendship was felt in my home.  
<sup>5</sup>The Almighty was still with me,  
and my children were around me.  
<sup>6</sup>My steps were awash in cream,  
and the rocks gushed olive oil for me.  
  
<sup>7</sup>“Those were the days.....