

# extreme Friends

Starting Sundays on  
September 8th At 9:15am

## **Lesson:**

This week we reviewed the importance of being intentional and using God's wisdom when choosing our friends.

We introduced the "Circle of Friends" and discussed the attributes of our friends in different levels of the circle and identified the characteristics of who we consider to be our Best Friends (inner circle). We talked about our own "Circle of Friends" and why God and family should always be in the center with us.

We found that our Best Friends often have many of the same attributes that God has such as caring for us, unconditional love, protecting us, strengthening us and helping us up when we need them to. They also know most everything about us and are not afraid to "call us out" when we do things that may be wrong.

We talked about how God wants to be our Best Friend and how we should be a good Best Friend in order to have good Best Friends and the best way to do that is to model God's friendship with us and follow his word.

We said that it is okay to have non-Christian friends and acquaintances, in fact we need to in order to follow Jesus' command to be the salt & light of the world, but our Best Friends should have the same values, principles and beliefs as we do so we can help each other grow in our faith. It also helps to reduce conflict and helps protect us from being led astray. We noted that friends can move in or out of the different levels of the "Circle of Friends" and we should pray for help in choosing to place friends in the appropriate level because Best Friends have the most influence of all our friends.

We finished up by handing out "Circle of Friends" worksheets to take home and write down where in the circle our current friends are and then pray about whether we have them in the proper level or if they need to be moved to a different level.

Next week we discuss conflict and what to do when conflict occurs in our friendships.

## **Bible Verse: 2 Corinthians 6:14**

14 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?

## **Bible Verse: John 15:14-17**

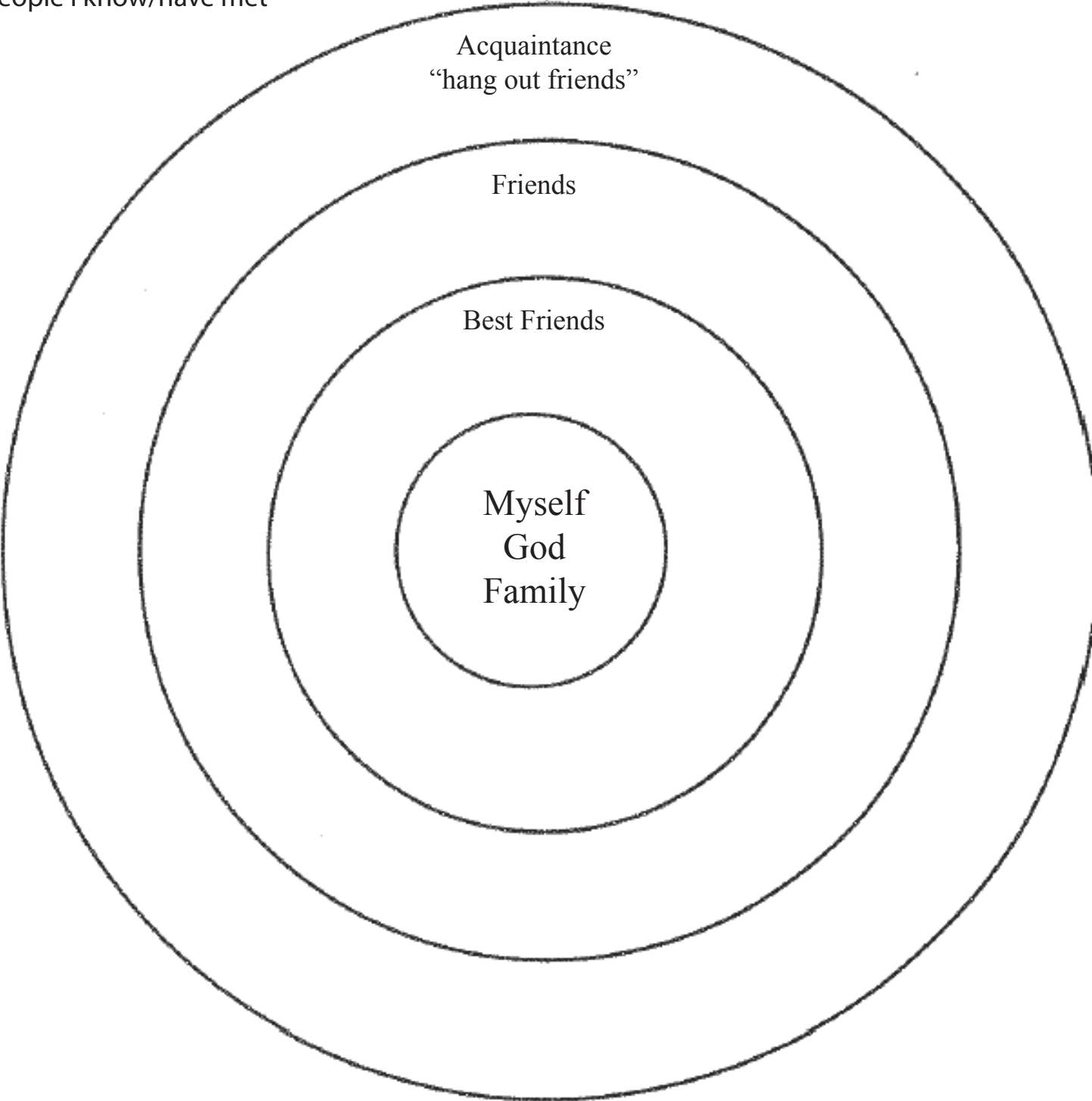
14 You are my friends if you do what I command. 15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. 17 This is my command: Love each other.

## **Bible Verse: Proverbs 27:17**

17 As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

**See Page 2 for a copy of the "Circle of Friends" worksheet**

People I know/have met



Acquaintance  
“hang out friends”

Friends

Best Friends

Myself  
God  
Family