



WEEK 3  
TOY STORY  
MATT RANDALL



“It is one of the blessings of old friends that you can afford to be stupid with them.” Ralph Waldo Emerson

A friend encourages and advises .

So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are doing. *1 Thessalonians 5:11*

Plans go wrong for lack of advice; many advisors bring success. *Proverbs 15:22*

Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm. *Proverbs 13:20*

A friend shows up .

...four men arrived carrying a paralyzed man on a mat. *Mark 2:3*

They couldn't bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, so they looked at their friend and said, "Hey buddy, maybe next time."

"To infinity and beyond!"

...so they dug a hole through the roof above his head. Then they lowered the man on his mat, right down in front of Jesus. *Mark 2:4*

**Seeing their faith**, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "My child, your sins are forgiven." *Mark 2:5*

Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, "Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!" *Mark 2:10-11*

What kind of friend are you?

Since we were restored to friendship with God by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be delivered from eternal punishment by his life. *Romans 5:10*

For Group Discussion

Answer these questions prior to your Small Group meeting this week.

### Group Prep

In preparation for your small group, please read the following passages of Scripture and answer the following discussion questions prior to attending.

Romans 5:1-11, John 15:1-15, and Mark 2:1-12

### Introduction

Friendship is a wonderful thing. Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, "It is of the blessings of old friends that you can afford to be stupid with them." In the movie Toy Story, we see a great picture of friendship. We see two guys build a friendship, as they learn to trust and rely on each other.

### Discussion Questions

1. In your own words, define friendship. How would you say your friendships have changed as you have moved from childhood to your teen years and then into adulthood? What are some ways they have stayed the same?

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:11 and Proverbs 15:22. Share a time when your friends encouraged you or advised you so that your plans didn't go in the wrong direction.

2. Friendship isn't just about talk and verbal encouragement. A real friend will show up. Read Mark 2:1-3. Give some practical examples for what it looks like to "show up" for a friend?

Which of your friends can you count on to always show up? What is it about that friend that makes them so reliable?

3. Being a friend requires us to go "to infinity...and beyond!" Read Mark 2:4-5. What are some real factors or barriers that make this aspect of friendship more difficult than it should be?

Share some ways to overcome these obstacles.

4. The kind of friendship we see modeled in the Bible requires action. What kind of friend are you?

Which one of your friends has a specific need, right now? Will you do all you can to meet that need? If so, share your first step with the group tonight, and then commit to following through in the coming week.

### OUTREACH: GROUPS IN ACTION

Now that school is over, school systems are looking at how they can help families in need prepare for the 2017-2018 school year. Can you collect and donate some school supplies and bring them in between now and July 2? Yellow #2 pencils, folders with prongs, spiral notebooks and 24-packs of crayons.

Would your group consider investing in a child's opportunity to experience camp? A contribution of \$189 will provide the funding for a child to experience camp July 10-14. If everyone pitched in to help support a child, and then pray for them those days, you would make a huge impact in a child's life! Contact Katie Hall to work out your support at [khall@eclife.org](mailto:khall@eclife.org).

### Action Step

Fill in the blanks below for this upcoming week.

My action steps are \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

I'm accountable for \_\_\_\_\_, and their action steps are

\_\_\_\_\_.

My memory verse is \_\_\_\_\_.

This coming week, I'm praying for:

\_\_\_\_\_.