



I Know a Guy – Week 1 Group Guide – He Makes Friends Easily

We hope you'll use this guide to take the teaching from Sunday's service and reflect on it with a few friends or with a group. If you have questions or want to talk more about how to take a next spiritual step, contact us at info@wschurch.org. If you are a group leader, you'll receive communication with specific instructions during this series. Have questions? Email DerekV@wschurch.org.

Find a Vision Video for All-Church Groups at youtube.com/wschurch.

Introduction and Icebreaker (10 minutes) – Choose 2 questions and make sure you hear from everyone.

- *If your group is new and doesn't know one another:* Introduce yourself and tell us one thing about your family.
- Can you think of a time when you've been watching a good movie where you found yourself pulled into the storyline? What movie was it and how did you experience it?
- What scene or story from Jesus' life "pulls you in"—one you'd especially love to have been present in? Why that scene?
- On a scale from 1-10, how hungry are you for friendship?

Message and Scripture Discussion (20 minutes)

- **What stood out to you from Sunday's service?** How did you sense God at work in you through the songs, the message, and being together with others as part of the church? (The message's main points and scripture are listed below if it helps you think back.)
- Eddie shared that relationships determine our happiness more than our circumstances. **Have you observed this in your life or in others? How so?**
- **Read Jesus' words in John 15:12-17 out loud.** How do you react to Jesus' words here, specifically in verse 16, where he says that he chose you?
- Look through the list of some of the barriers to friendship that Eddie offered: fear of vulnerability, busyness, and our devices. **What do you think is the biggest barrier for you when it comes to having rich relationships?**
- Eddie shared, **"Spiritual growth happens best in the context of relationships."** Have you ever experienced this? When and how?
- In John 3, Nicodemus went to visit Jesus in secret but with confidence that Jesus would be open to meeting with him. **Can you relate to Nicodemus? Do you know that Jesus is open to meeting with you? How so?**
- Is there anything else from the message that you want to explore more this week?

Reflection (10 minutes)

Have your group open their book to page 6. Read this question to them and let them write down a response.

- What is one step you need to take to have healthy friendships?

Invite people to share anything they're open to, but don't require it.

Group Logistics (10 minutes)

Walk through several important details for your group.

- **Small Group Values and Schedule** – Open your books to pages 7-8.
Look through the commitments, fill out the schedule, and have everyone sign the covenant. (You don't need to collect it.)

- **Daily Time with Jesus** – Open your books to page 9.
Don't assume people know how to read the Bible! The QR code for *How to Pray and Read the Bible* is a helpful tool. We have FREE Bibles at the Next Steps Area.
- **Look at Day 1 together** – Open your books to page 10.
Encourage people to set aside time during the week to be with Jesus and to take a few notes.
- **Weekly Recap page** – Open to page 15.
There is a page each week for you to look over your daily notes and reflect. You'll use this page in next week's group time.
- **Life-Changing Friendships section** – Open your books to pages 17-24.
This is a reflection you can work on throughout the 5 weeks. You don't need to do it all this week!
- **Remind your group: The Daily Time with Jesus is an invitation to spend more time with him during the week, but shouldn't feel like a burden or an assignment.**
- **Decide if your group wants to do snacks or not.**
- **On-Site Groups: next week, there's no large group time. Come directly to your group location!**

Prayer (5 minutes)

- Have one person from your group (the leader or a volunteer) pray out loud to close your group time. Consider offering to pray and ask if anyone else would be willing to pray, as well.

To find all of the series information, go to www.wschurch.org/iknowaguy.

You can sign up for daily text devotions by texting JESUS to 217217 or by going to www.wschurch.org/txtsignup. These devotions correspond with the daily time with Jesus in your book.

Message Main Points and Scripture:

- **How hungry am I for friendship?**
- **Many of us are living with a friendship deficit.**
- **People with good relationships and bad circumstances are happier than people with good circumstances and bad relationships.**
- **John 3:16**
- John 3:16 - "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."
- John 3:1-2 - There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee. After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. "Rabbi," he said, "we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you."
- **Jesus was approachable.**
- John 7:51 - "Is it legal to convict a man before he is given a hearing?"
- John 15:15 - "I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me. You didn't choose me. I chose you."
- **We follow a Savior who values friendship!**
- **Fear of vulnerability**
- Proverbs 18:24 - "A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."
- **Busyness**
- Luke 10:41 - "My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details – but there is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her."
- **My faith and my people are more important than my to-do list.**
- **For many of us, friendship is an afterthought.**
- **The greatest enemy of our relationships is our devices.**
- John 12:32 - Jesus said, "And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself." Then John explains: He said this to indicate how he was going to die.
- **Friendship as a means to an end**

- Proverbs 17:17 – “A friend loves at all times.”
- **Friendship without boundaries**
- **Healthy friendship is gracious, but accountable.**
- **Healthy friendship is generous, but reciprocal.**
- Acts 20:35 - “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”
- **Healthy friendship is devoted, but not obsessed.**
- **Healthy friendship is accepting, but not blindly loyal.**
- 1 Corinthians 13:6 – “Love rejoices whenever the truth wins out.”
- **Healthy friendship is personal, but a witness to a lonely world.**