



## JESUS IS... FAITHFUL FRIEND – GOOD SHEPHERD – HEALER

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### **P**review

This is one of a series of lessons examining Jesus' character and power by exploring His titles and adjectives from A to Z. (*Titles and adjectives are from the King James Version of the Bible and may be different in other translations.*)

- What are some adjectives that describe your best friends? (*fun, trustworthy, caring, witty, enthusiastic, supportive, loyal, understanding, etc.*)

### **P**raise

Proverbs has some excellent advice about friends:

"A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity" (17:17).

"A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly:  
and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother" (18:24).

"Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful" (27:6).

"Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend" (27:17).

Let's take a moment to give thanks for friends. *Say a prayer of thanks together.*

### **P**arable

- What's the best thing a friend has ever done for you? (*encourage quick responses*)

Listen to what Jesus said about friends: *Read **John 15:13-15** from the Bible.*

- What did Jesus say shows the greatest love? (*"that a man lay down his life for his friends"*)

That's how much Jesus loves us. He's that kind of Friend. Romans 5:7-8 puts it this way. *Read **Romans 5:7-8** from your Bible.*

Jesus is the Friend who knows all about us and loves us anyway.



## **P**resent

Jesus described Himself with a G adjective/title in John 10. *Read **John 10:11** from your Bible.*

The Good Shepherd is like the Friend giving His life for those He loves.

According to Jesus, the Good Shepherd:

- Leads His sheep (doesn't drive them)
- Calls His sheep by name, and they follow Him because they know His voice (they run from strangers)
- Cares for and defends His sheep with His life (in contrast, a hired hand runs away when he sees the wolf coming)

King David (who was himself a shepherd) wrote a psalm about the Good Shepherd. *Read **Psalms 23** from your Bible.*

Jesus is the Good Shepherd. We, His sheep, can depend on His faithful, loving care.

## **P**ractice

Jesus healed many people while He was on earth. *Read **1 Peter 2:24** from your Bible.*

Jesus is our Healer. We tend to think of physical healing, but Jesus also heals emotions, minds, souls. This is what He came to do. *Read **Luke 4:18** from your Bible.*

Whatever is hurting you, take it to Jesus. He can heal your body, but He's most concerned about your soul.

## **P**ray

*Read **Psalms 103:1-4** together. Pray together, doing as the psalmist says and remembering the Lord's benefits, including that He is our Friend, Good Shepherd, and Healer.*

## **P**lus

This week take some time to think about Jesus' titles and adjectives that begin with the letters F, G, and H. Use the handout to explore some more of these.