



# Befriend

## Leader's Guide



### Welcome

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Is real friendship too risky? We live in a world where real friendship is hard to find. Suspicious of others and insecure about ourselves, we retreat to the safety of our small, self-made digital worlds. Tragically, even the church can become a place that reinforces this isolation. Jesus models a much richer vision of friendship. Pastor and teacher Scott Sauls invites Christians to see the breadth of Christ's love toward people we often avoid. In this 6-session series, Scott outlines principles for befriending those around us with the love of Jesus.

### Series Overview

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#### Week 1: A Case for Befriending

What are the characteristics of a friendship? Pastor Sauls explains what it means to have a true friend as well as identify our culture's illusion of friendship.

#### Week 2: Befriend the God Who Embraces You

Self-centeredness destroys relationships, especially our relationship with God. How can we work on being less concerned with ourselves and more concerned about God?

#### Week 3: Recognize Our Weaknesses

If you want to be a good friend, they you need to learn self-awareness. Pastor Sauls explains the importance of knowing one's weaknesses.

#### Week 4: Overcome Fear and Prejudice

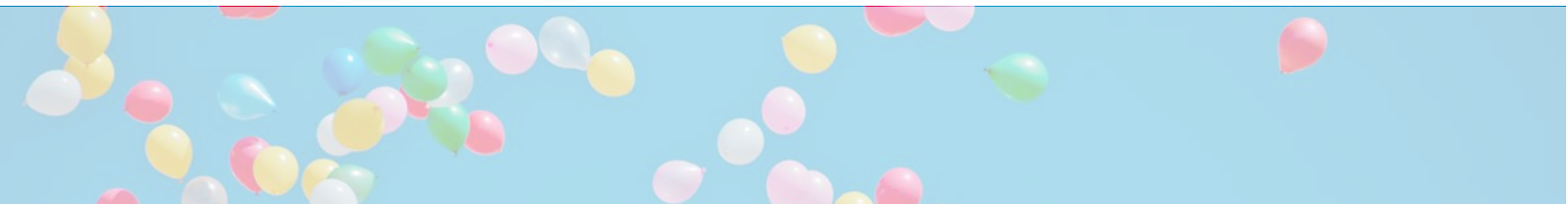
There will always be someone hard to love. However, Jesus commands us to love everyone, even our enemies. We must learn to befriend those who are difficult to like.

#### Week 5: Seek to Understand

Everyone, at some point in their life, is misunderstood by someone else. Part of learning to befriend others is seeking to understand where they come from and what they believe.

#### Week 6: Love

The secret ingredient to all this is love. We serve a loving God who desires to see His children love each other.





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### Discipleship Insights

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- This study will push you beyond your normal circle of influence. As the leader, model this kind of attitude for your group. Be willing to step into conversations with people whom you disagree.
- Challenge your group to complete the following tasks.
  - Meet someone new
  - Ask them to share their story
  - Seek to understand who they are
  - Schedule a lunch or coffee meeting with them
  - Share with the Life Group what it is like to befriend someone new
- Have your group journal throughout this series about whom they meet, what they talk about, and how Jesus works through our relationships.
- Commit to praying for your group as you challenge them to take steps of faith by befriending others.