

FREQUENCY

A GATEWAY SERIES

I'm a Friend

Robert Morris

Focus God's greatest motivation to talk to us is friendship. God wants to be the type of friend who sits and talks with us.

Fun Summer fun is just around the corner! Share one of your greatest memories from a trip or event in your life.

Review Key Scriptures: John 15:13, 15:15, 16:12–13; Genesis 18:17–33; Judges 16:17; Exodus 33:11; James 2:23; Zechariah 13:6; Matthew 26:48–50

- **God does not speak to robots.**

We communicate two ways, mechanically to machines and personally to people. God does not want to communicate mechanically with us; He wants to communicate personally. God talks to us because He loves us, not just to give us direction.

- **God speaks to people.**

There are amazing records in the Bible where God speaks to people. God does not speak differently now than He did in the Bible. The Holy Spirit speaks to us by faith and not fear.

- **God speaks to friends.**

God wants to be your friend. He created people with free will and the ability to hear and speak. God's desire is to walk and talk with us in the cool of the day. God wants to be our friend even when we don't act the way we should.

Group Dynamics Idea Think of someone who is an acquaintance. Consider an act of personal communication with that person as a way to open the door to friendship.

Discuss

1. There are many types of friends in the world. There is the drive-by-and-drop-off-a-book friend, the give-you-a-call-once-a-month friend, and the friend who calls, texts, and stops by often to personally talk face-to-face with you. What kind of friend do you prefer? What kind of friend are you?
2. Many of us spend our days communicating mechanically. We use email and texting to connect to other people, but God desires to communicate with us personally, not mechanically. What are some steps we can take to ensure personal communication with God?

3. God tells us to bring our petitions to Him and let our requests be made known. Have you ever had a friend that complains or asks for something all the time, but all you really want to do is just sit and talk? God will always take care of our petitions and requests, but He also desires to just sit and talk to us. What kind of friend are you to God?
4. Often times we get discouraged because we don't think God speaks to us in the same way He spoke to those in the Bible. We expect to hear a booming audible voice, and we miss the still small voice in our heart. What are some ways God has spoken to you?
5. What is one of the greatest memories of God's presence in your life? Share.

Take Home

- To hear God, stop what you are doing and draw near to God.
- One of the greatest truths you will ever learn is how to hear the voice of God.
- God does not just want to input data into your life to get a desired result; He wants to be your friend.

Pray

Lord, thank You for being our Creator, Father, and Friend. Thank You for giving us the ability to walk and talk with You. Help us to communicate with You on a personal level so that we may hear Your voice. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip Take time throughout this week to touch base with each member of your group. By sending a card in the mail, making a phone call, or even sending a thoughtful email of encouragement, you will make a significant relational deposit into the members of your group. Ask them how their week is going and if they have any prayer needs. Letting them know they matter is a great way to personally connect with members of your group!