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I WANT TO BE A BETTER FRIEND BECAUSE I KNOW THE BEST FRIEND

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If you are shopping for something at a store or online, you may check out the reviews about the product. By sharing their experience, people who don't know you are helping you. Evangelism is simply sharing your experience. Is your friendship with Jesus a good experience? If so, share it!

BELLS AND WELCOME

OPENING SONG

Shout to the North

**Men of faith rise up and sing
Of the great and glorious King
You are strong when you feel weak
In your brokenness complete**

Refrain

**Shout to the north and the south
Sing to the east and the west
Jesus is saviour to all
Lord of heaven and earth**

**Rise up women of the truth
Stand and sing to broken hearts
Who can know the healing power
Of our awesome King of love**

Refrain

**Rise up church with broken wings
Fill this place with songs again
Of our God who reigns on high
By His grace again we'll fly**

Refrain x2

M The grace of our Lord (†) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.
C And also with you.

M Lord Jesus Christ, you are our best and our truest friend. You made the ultimate sacrifice when you laid down your life to rescue us from sin and death, bringing us back into God's family.

C **Heavenly Father, we know that you call us to be that kind of friend to all those you have placed into our lives, loving them as you have loved us.**

M But there are so many activities and concerns that crowd into our lives, robbing us of our excitement and damping our desire to be true and faithful friends. We are sorry and ashamed. Through the Holy Spirit we come to you with repentant hearts confessing our sins and pleading for your mercy in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

SONG OF PRAISE

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

**The King of Love my Shepherd is - Whose goodness faileth never
I nothing lack if I am His - And He is mine forever
And He is mine forever**

**Where streams of living water flow - My ransomed soul He leadeth
And where the verdant pastures grow - With food celestial feedeth**

Refrain

**Never failing, Ruler of my heart
Everlasting, Lover of my soul
On the mountain high or in the valley low
The King of Love my Shepherd is
The King of Love my Shepherd is**

**Lost and foolish off I strayed - But yet in love He sought me
And on His shoulder gently laid - And home rejoicing brought me**

**In death's dark veil I fear no ill - With Thee, dear Lord, beside me
Thy rod and staff my comfort still - Thy cross before to guide me**

Refrain

**Oh, Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Oh, Hallelujah, Hallelujah**

Refrain x2

**And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never
Good Shepherd, may I sing Your praise
Within Your house forever
Within Your house forever**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- M Let us pray.
Lord Jesus, teach us, inspire us, empower us, to be true and faithful friends to those around us.
- C **Fill us with faith, virtue, knowledge, moderation, patience, and godliness.**
- M When we grow weary, remind us again of the faithful friendship you have shown us. We pray Jesus, in your name. You live and reign with Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

Esther 4:1-17, Bible page 495

We all know friends who are facing their personal trials and challenges. Who knows? Perhaps God has placed you into their lives "for such a time as this" just like Esther.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 67

May all people know your ways, O Lord, that they may be glad and sing for joy.

- M May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us
- C **so that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.**
- M May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you.
- C **May the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you rule the peoples with equity and guide the nations of the earth.**
- M May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you.
- C **The land yields its harvest; God, our God, blesses us.**
- All **May God bless us still, so that all the ends of the earth will fear him.**

GOSPEL

John 15:9-17, Bible page 1082

Jesus calls us his friends and commands us to show the people around us the same self-sacrificing love he has displayed to us.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

MESSAGE SONG

I Will Sing

I began Dead to life, Walking in the dead of night
Captive to a life of brokenness
Living with - a lack of faith, Haunted by – all my mistakes
Blinded by my pride and bitterness
But you opened up my eyes and I will...

Refrain

Sing, of the Lord's great love forever,
Making his faithfulness known
I will declare that your love stands firm forever,
My soul to save, life from the grave, Jesus is the way
And I will Sing

**Brought to life to sing your praise,
walking in the light of faith
What joy and peace we have in Christ alone
No more fear though trials come, trusting in the Holy One
Resting in your love that you've made known
And you've filled me with a song and I will**

Refrain

**Amazing Grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind, but now I see...
And I will Sing... And I will Sing... I will**

Refrain

SERMON

Luke 10:25-37, Bible page 1040
Pastor Nate Strobel

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." (Proverbs 9:10a) Without you Lord we are nothing and can accomplish nothing. You deserve all respect and honor. Lord, empty us of our pride, our worry, our lack of faith. Fill us with your Word that we can hate what is evil and cling to what is good. Give us an attitude within that may be a help and not a hindrance to those around us, especially those entrusted to our care. Make us all humble students of your Word who boldly do your will to your glory and for your people.

Special prayers and intercessions.

M Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M Now, eternal God and Father, keep us in the saving faith and so enable us to overcome all things through our Lord Jesus Christ.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

M The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING SONG

All the People Said Amen

**You are not alone if you are lonely
When you're feeling frail, you're not the only
We are all the same in need of mercy
To be forgiven and be free
It's all you got to lean on
But thank God, it's all you need**

Refrain

**And all the people said Amen
Whoa, oh
And all the people said Amen
Give thanks to the Lord, for his love never ends
And all the people said Amen**

**If you're rich or poor well it don't matter
Weak or strong, we know love is what we're after
We're all broken but we're all in this together
God knows we stumble and fall
And he so loved the world he sent his son to save us all**

Refrain

**Blessed are the poor spirits who are torn apart
Blessed are the prosecuted and the pure in heart
Blessed are the people lonely for another start
For this is a kingdom
The kingdom of God**

Refrain x2