



## HOW TO HAVE CLOSE FRIENDS

In this video, we share three steps to adding value and depth to your friendships.

### INTRODUCTION (00:00)

Lacey tells the story of how her and her friend would meet each week to challenge and encourage each other. To be closer and feel more connected to our friends takes face-to-face intentionality.

1. *How often do you get together with your close friends?*
2. *What do you enjoy most about being physically present with them?*
3. *When is it most difficult to be physically present with them?*

### STEP #1: MAKE TIME FOR YOUR FRIENDS (04:55)

Spending intentional time with our friends will not just happen. We must schedule time and plan to be with those we love. This can also mean canceling or quitting things to which we feel obligated so that we can be relationally healthy with our friends.

4. *What might you have to give up so that you can spend quality, social time with friends?*

### STEP #2: CHALLENGE EACH OTHER (05:29)

Engaging in mutually enjoyable activities is often the beginning of a friendship and can create a sense of camaraderie. However, engaging in deep, heart-felt conversation is what deepens the friendship — it builds trust, challenges the mind, and develops true companionship.

5. *When was the last time you and a friend had a vulnerable discussion or engaged in a disagreement?*

### STEP #3: PRAY FOR EACH OTHER (06:50)

One of the best ways that you can be available for your friend is by praying for their needs. Praying for one another — face-to-face — creates an emotional and spiritual bond that cultivates loyalty, compassion, and authenticity.

6. *When was the last time that you have prayed together with a close friend?*
7. *What needs does your friend have for which you can be praying?*
8. *What needs of yours have you talked to your friend about and asked them for prayer?*

### ACTIVATION (08:33)

If you don't have a friend like this,

- 1) Intentionally pray about this need
- 2) Reach out to someone and connect with them
- 3) Discuss with them what it would look like to be intentional in your friendship