





Jonathan remained loyal. He displayed all the best characteristics of a true friend (1 Samuel 20). The Bible Says in Proverbs 18:24 “He that hath friends must show himself friendly”.

**Ruth**, the daughter-in-law of Naomi became a trusted and loyal friend to her mother-in-law. They were much more than in-laws; they were true friends.

When a famine arose in Bethlehem Judah, Elimelech, his wife Naomi, and their two sons went to the city of Moab. While they were there, both boys grew up and married women of Moab. But when Elimelech and his sons died leaving their wives widows, Naomi decided to go back to Bethlehem, Judah.

She told her daughters-in-law to remain in Moab. One of the women took Naomi’s advice and went back to her family. But despite Naomi’s attempts to persuade Ruth that she too should return to her family, as it wouldn’t benefit her to go, Ruth instead decided to follow her mother-in-law back to Bethlehem. She left her god, and her family, and followed her friend to a strange land. Ruth 1:16-17. Ruth indeed was “a friend that sticks closer than a brother.” (Proverbs 18:24)

When Naomi and Ruth came to Bethlehem the people were excited to see them. But because Naomi had lost her husband, her sons, and only had her daughter-in-law with her, she didn't want the name Naomi anymore, but instead chose Mara meaning, “bitter”. Little did Naomi know that her pagan friend would cause her to smile again.

Ruth worked in the fields to support her mother-in-law and great friend. She went to the field of a rich relative of Naomi, named Boaz. Boaz fell in love with Ruth, married her and she had a son and brought him to Naomi. Her friendship and commitment put a smile on Naomi’s face again.



**Abraham** was known as a “friend of God” (Isaiah 41:8). These are the qualities that made God recognize him as his friend; he obeyed God, he trusted God, and he took Him at His word. When God told him to leave his father’s pagan home he left. When he promised him a son, he believed God, though it took years for it to happen, he trusted God anyway. When God asked him to sacrifice Isaac the son of promise, he obeyed God and God provided a ram for the sacrifice. Abraham was truly a friend of God.

**Job** also had to deal with his friends. Sometimes friends, in their attempt to support and be a blessing, can misjudge. Job’s friends were classic examples of that. They came from miles around to check on Job. He was in such bad shape he was unrecognizable. They sat with him for seven days without saying a word. Sometimes friends just need to be there. But Job’s friend also discouraged him by accusing him of sin. They did not know the whole story (Job 2:11). After days of telling Job that he had sinned, God finally intervened, and asked Job to pray for his friends. When Job prayed for his friends, God restored Job’s health and wealth.

**Saul** after he was converted, most of the believers were afraid of him. But one of the disciples named Barnabas became Saul’s friend. He carried him to the others and vouched for him. He relayed to them the story of how Saul, later known as Paul, met Jesus on the Damascus Road and was later saved and called to preach the Gospel.

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Barnabas and Paul became Ministry partners and went on two Missionary journeys spreading the Gospel to the Gentiles. Paul and Barnabas had a heated debate over John Mark that eventually caused them to separate. But there is no Biblical indication that they did not still remain friends.

**Jesus Christ the Son of God** is the greatest friend of all. He said to His Disciples “no greater love has any man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13). Jesus showed His friendship by dying for our sins on Calvary, Jesus said we are His friend if we do what he says (John 15:15).



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### OCTOBER

PASTOR APPRECIATION & BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

- 12th – 16th > Southern District Convention
- 21st > 1st Lady Birthday
- 24th > Cancer Awareness Sunday
- 29th > Fall Festival
- 31st > 5th Sunday CBS Auxiliary Day TBA

### NOVEMBER

- FOOD DRIVE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES  
“Mission Department”

Find more information on [www.cogainc.org](http://www.cogainc.org)



## A LITTLE SOMETHING TO LAUGH ABOUT

- Pride comes before the fall.
- "Autumn shows us how beautiful it is to let things go." — Anonymous
- October reminds us that change can be beautiful

