

How to make Friends?



“¹² This is my commandment: love one another **as I love you**.¹³ No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you.”

Philos:
→ beloved

→ John 15:12-14 NABRE



Jesus teaches us by example how to be a good friend.

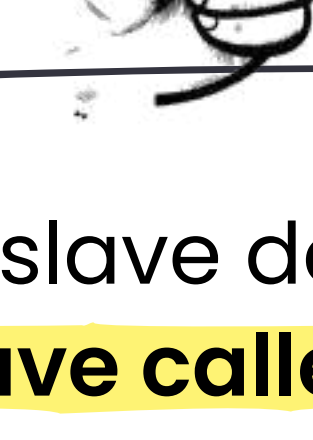
I MAKE FRIENDS LIKE JESUS, IF:

①. I seek the deep joy of having friends

“I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and **your joy may be complete**.”

→ John 15:11 NABRE

Jesus teaches us that **friendship** is the key to joy.



“I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. **I have called you friends**, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father.”

→ John 15:15 NABRE

Jesus **didn't need** to have friends.



Jesus **wanted** to have friends.

“A man of too many friends comes to ruin, But there is a friend **who sticks closer** than a brother.”

→ Proverbs 18:24 NASB1995

I MAKE FRIENDS LIKE JESUS, IF:

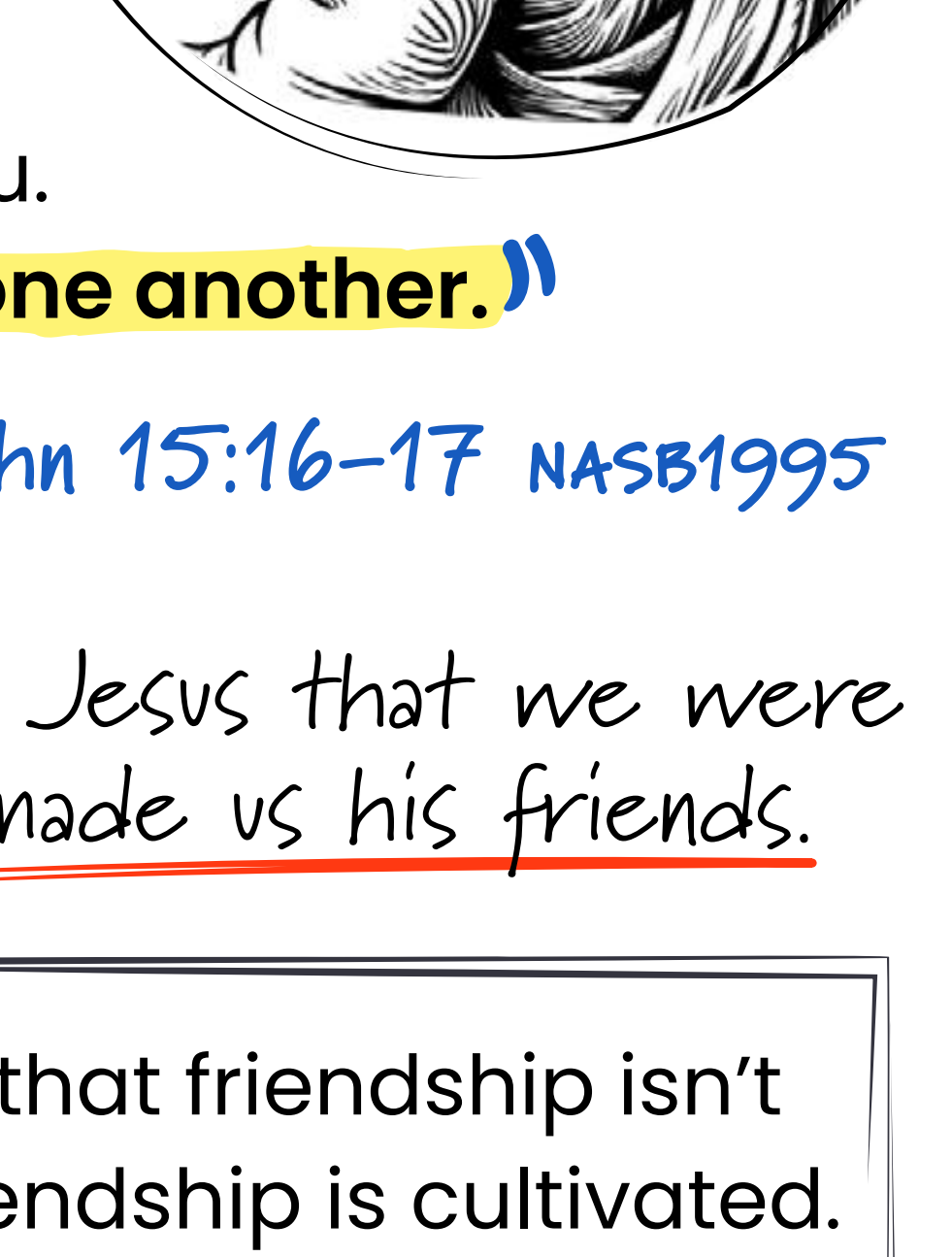
②. Generously use my influence to add value to them

Jesus shared His influence generously with us.

“¹⁶ You did not choose Me but **I chose you**, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.

¹⁷ This I command you, **that you love one another**.”

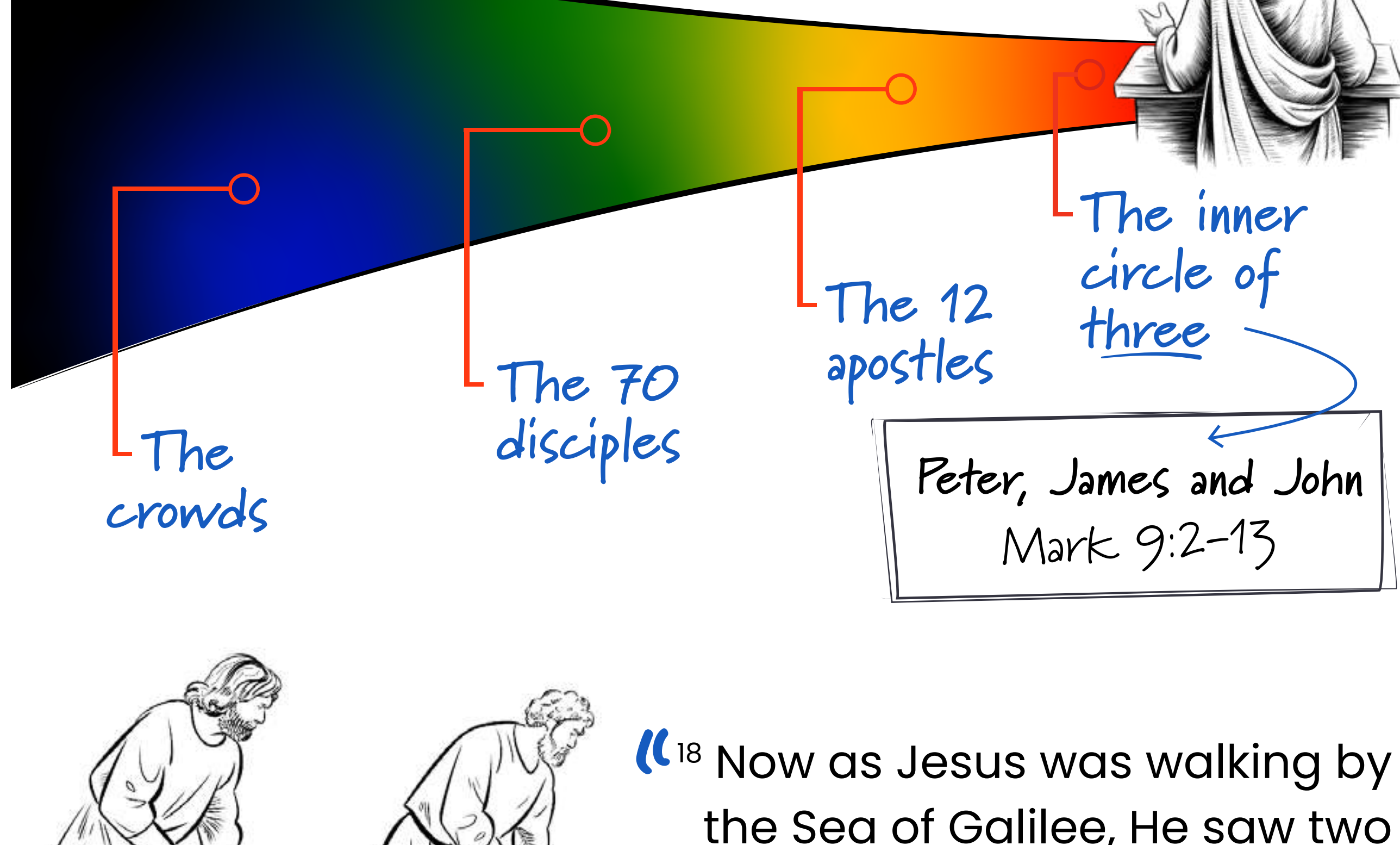
→ John 15:16-17 NASB1995



It wasn't enough for Jesus that we were his followers; He made us his friends.

He taught us that friendship isn't improvised; friendship is cultivated. Jesus, being abundant in love, **was strategic** in how He invested in His friends:

Levels of Jesus' friendship



“¹⁸ Now as Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who was called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen.¹⁹ And He *said to them, “Follow Me, and **will make you fishers of men**.””

→ Matthew 4:18-19 NASB1995

When you add value, you're rescuing people... Who is close to you that needs to be pulled out?

“**A friend loves at all times**, And a brother is born for adversity.”

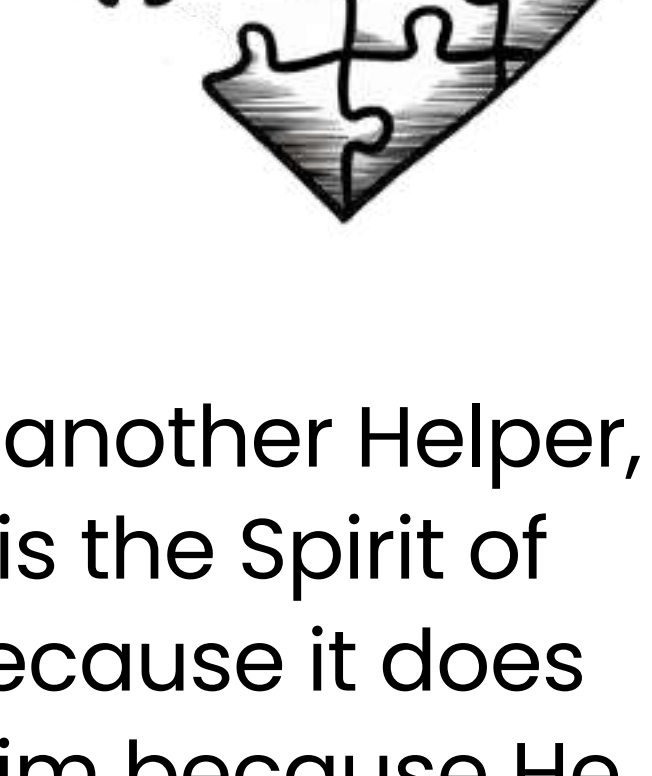
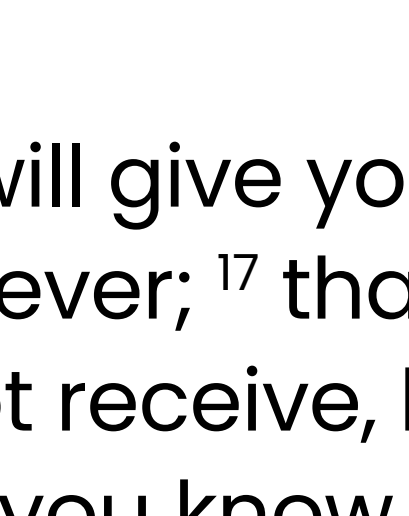
→ Proverbs 17:17 NASB1995



I MAKE FRIENDS LIKE JESUS, IF:

③. I don't need them, I want to have them

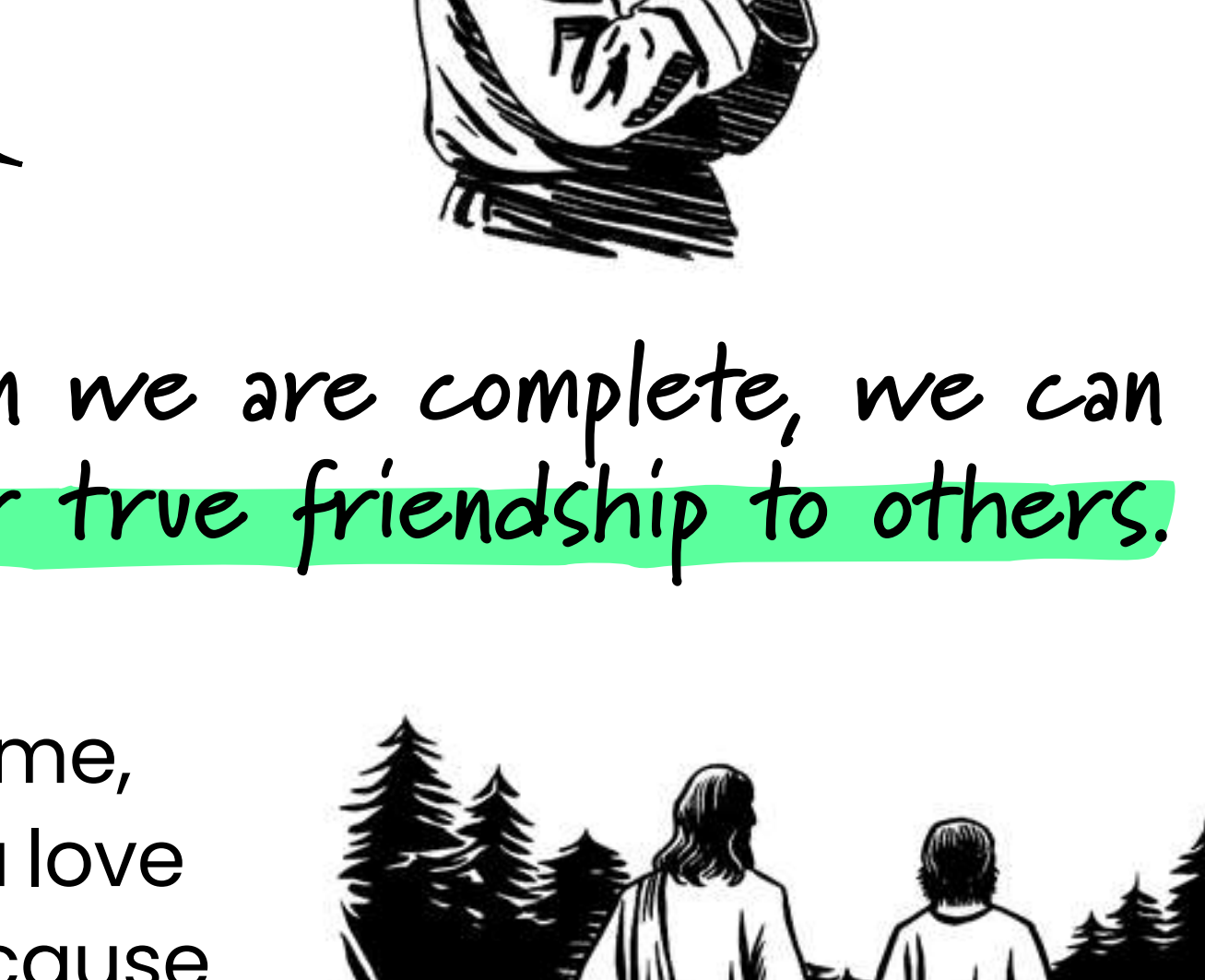
When we are **incomplete**, we need to have friends...



“¹⁶ I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever;¹⁷ that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.¹⁸ **“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”**”

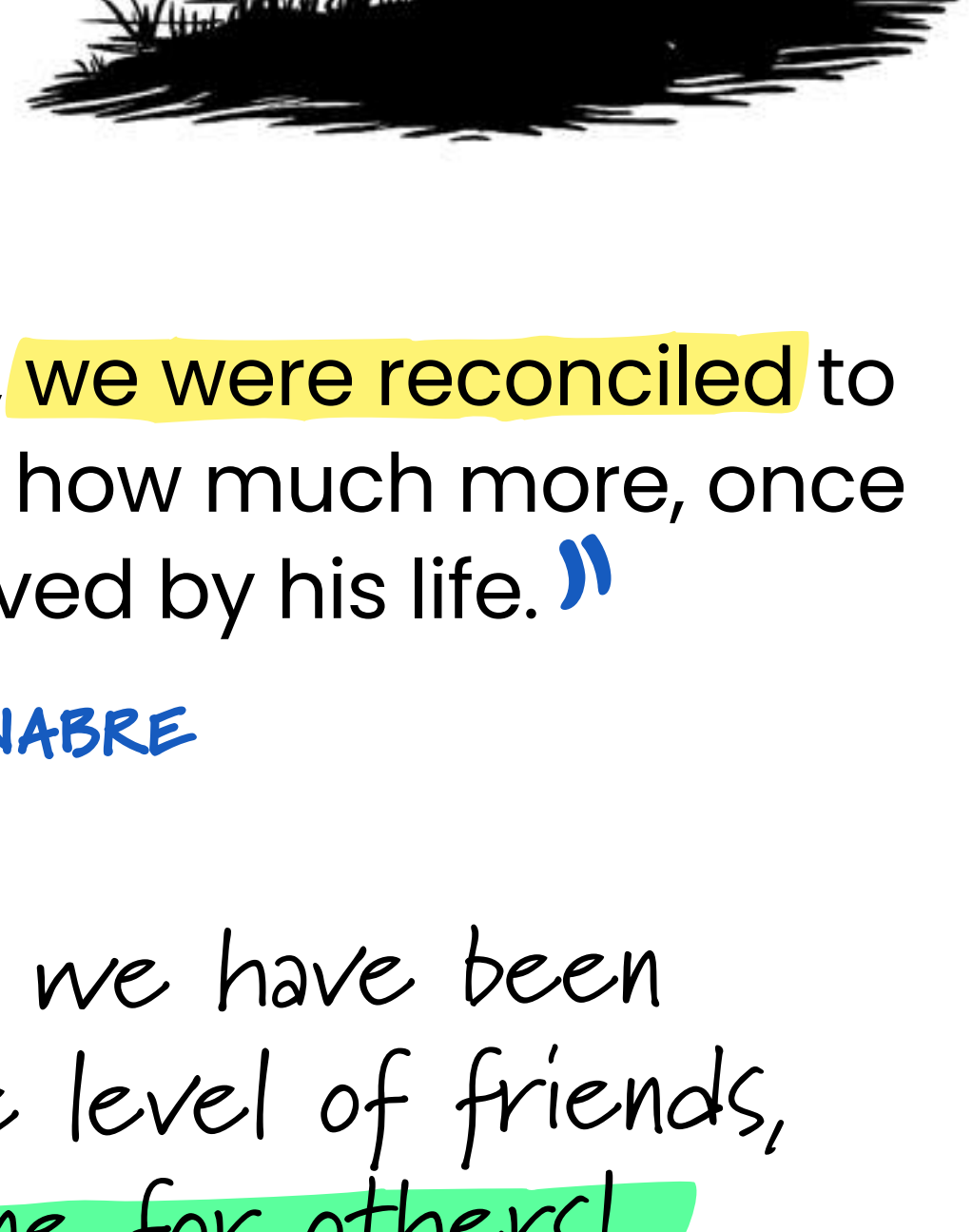
→ John 14:16-18 NASB1995

When we are in communion with God, **we are complete!**



When we are complete, we can **offer true friendship to others.**

“He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?” And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.” Jesus said to him, “Tend My sheep.”



“Indeed, if, while we were enemies, **we were reconciled** to God through the death of his Son, how much more, once reconciled, will we be saved by his life.”

→ Romans 5:10 NABRE

When we recognize that we have been forgiven and elevated to the level of friends, **we can now do the same for others!**

Let us draw near to God and ask that His joy be complete in us.

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