

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Friendship With Jesus

John's Gospel expresses the great news that we, as believers, can be called friends of Jesus:

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. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another. (Jn 15:15–16)

Jesus loves each of us so much that he values our friendship. A good question, though, is what kind of friend are we to him? In a survey given to students for many years, the following qualities of friendship consistently rank as the most important ones. Judge how well this quality is evident in your relationships with a close friend and with your friend Jesus.

Grade according to this scale:

A=doing great

B=very good

C=so-so

D=needs lots of work

E=not present at all

Initials of your friend: \_\_\_\_\_

| Quality   | Friend | Jesus |
|---|--------|-------|
| 1. Trust: can <i>always</i> be counted on.                |        |       |
| 2. Honesty: truthful in relationship; holds nothing back. |        |       |
| 3. Loyalty: devoted and faithful.                         |        |       |
| 4. Common interests: likes the same things.               |        |       |
| 5. Availability: makes time for the other.                |        |       |
| 6. Caring/considerate: loving at all times.               |        |       |
| 7. Acceptance: can be oneself without proving anything.   |        |       |

- Share examples of how each of these qualities is demonstrated in your friendships.
- Name concrete ways Jesus expresses his friendship to you.
- Name three other qualities of friendship. Why are these important for you?
- Write a one-page reflection on your friendship with Jesus.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Jesus' Use of Allegory

Read John 15:1–11 to see how Jesus used allegory in his teaching.

Recall that an allegory has a number of points of comparison. Answer the following questions:

Who is the vine?

Who is the vinegrower?

What does the pruning process represent?

Who are the branches?

What happens if the branches remain attached to the vine?

What does the fruit represent?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Christian Leadership

Jesus upset many conventional ideas about leadership when he taught that its primary quality is service. Here are some traits of leadership modeled by Jesus. Under column 1, rank these from the ones you think are most important (1) to least important (10). Under column 2, check those that you believe you possess.

| <b>Leadership Quality</b>                            | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> |
|--|----------|----------|
| <i>Service</i> : ability to serve others             |          |          |
| <i>Dynamic</i> : powerful personality                |          |          |
| <i>Warm</i> : friendly, open, and compassionate      |          |          |
| <i>Intelligent</i> : brains to do the job            |          |          |
| <i>Flexible</i> : can change when necessary          |          |          |
| <i>Authentic</i> : practices what he or she preaches |          |          |
| <i>Courageous</i> : will take calculated risks       |          |          |
| <i>Task-oriented</i> : focuses on outcomes           |          |          |
| <i>Motivator</i> : can get others to join in         |          |          |
| <i>Confident</i> : inspires trust in others          |          |          |
| <i>Other</i> [add your own]:                         |          |          |