

Session 10

Growing Your Circle: How to Seek Advice From the Bible and Other Believers

❖ OPEN IN PRAYER

***Suggestion:** Thank You Creator for bringing us together today to meet. Thank you for Your Word in the Bible and for the relationships you are forming through the people here. Help us to understand more about this world of faith and living a life with You.*

❖ DEFINING THE TOOL

>>><<< ADVICE >>><<<	
Definition	An opinion or recommendation offered as a guide to action, conduct, etc.
Synonyms	aid, guidance, help, instruction, opinion, suggestion, wisdom, word

❖ FAITH AND FRIENDSHIP

You're walking onto a new path of faith. Creator is growing your understanding of His being. He's impacting your life through the fullness of His Trinity (Creator, Son, and Holy Spirit). You are changing. When you start to change, other people will see it. Often times, our old friends fall away. This is normal. We also begin to find new friends or become closer friends with those who share our faith.

I had a circle of friends who couldn't handle who I became. They didn't understand it, or didn't like it, but what mattered the most was and is Who I

follow. We can follow bad people or good people. But the One best to follow is the One Who Saves us: Yeshua/Jesus. There were times where I felt alone or set apart. When it got to be too much for me I asked Yeshua to give me friends that would be good in my life. He did. I have seen Him answer that prayer for other people too when they needed new friends.

The disciples left their old lives when they met Jesus. As Jesus met them their group grew into a group of twelve. Each of them had Yeshua/Jesus in common. They wanted to serve with Him and be a part of what He was doing. They didn't always get along. Some were competitive or thought they were the best, one even deceived Yeshua/Jesus.

Our circle of friends grows in the faith, but no one is perfect except for Jesus/Yeshua.

When you think of the hard times in your life and when it was the worst, think about who was a part of that. Use your new wisdom to understand that sometimes it's better to be away from some people in order to live a better way and walk a better path. You can know in your own spirit who is safe for you to be around.

Being open in your circle of believing friends is helpful. Sharing your life openly with trusted friends allows you to tell your stories of good and also the struggles. This will help you by providing others to pray with you or share your hard times, or to celebrate with you and be thankful and praise Creator/Yahweh for the good things, too. We all like to hear something good that He has done. Being open is important in building relationships. We don't like perfection in others and don't trust it because deep down we know all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God just like the Word says in the Bible.

Read from your Bible: Romans 3:23

Relationships built on open honesty become the ones where we are able to reflect on things and gain wisdom to help us grow. It helps to have people who can relate to our issues and who also know where the believer's greatest source of help comes from.

Read from your Bible: Psalm 121:2

Friends who pray are the best kind of friends. Friends who can help with sharing a Bible verse often bring a kind of advice or hope or comfort that is miraculous because it is from the Living Word of God/Yahweh.

- **Share in your group how relationships are changing in your life today. Take time to pray for anyone that needs it.**

After I got strong in my faith and my new way of life, I was able to be around some of the people that were harder for me at the beginning. God had strengthened me to be able to stay on the good path. I was able to show some of my old friends the better life that they could have too.

***Group Leader:** Share with the group how your circle of friends has changed since you chose to believe and walk in your faith. How do you see God's hand in that change?*

❖ **GUIDANCE FROM THE BIBLE AND BELIEVERS**

- **Share if there has been a Bible verse or book that has helped you or inspires you in your life today.**

The Bible gives guidance, hope and inspiration like no other book. One person said he'd rather lose his phone than his Bible. He says the Bible is his policy and

procedures manual to life and living. You can pull up his short interview about that on ***Native Strong ARC Youtube channel*** under ***Chief Craige Interview 2***.

When we go through life now in faith, we can look for help or advice from other believers and from the Bible.

- **Do you ever look to the Bible for answers when you have a question or a problem in your life? Why or why not?**

Many modern Bibles, especially study Bibles, have an index, a concordance, or a dictionary – or all three. This is a section in the back that lists key words and tells you where to find the scriptures that talk about them. Sometimes finding God’s wisdom for your question is as easy as looking up the word for what we are dealing with and then reading the verses about it. Sometimes praying and asking God to direct you to what you need in His Word helps too. Many people have found exactly the page they needed at the right time by the power of His Holy Spirit.

The more we read the Bible the more we see how perfect it is. God still speaks to us through it today. Spend time reading whole sections (books or chapters or stories) straight through. The more you read the Word, the better you will get to know God’s character, and you may even get a sense of God’s will for your life even when you don’t have any pressing questions at the time.

Staying involved with a group that is doing regular times of meeting for prayer or Bible study or Bible teaching helps us stay on the right path. It also helps our friendships and relationships grow. It grows our circle. Everyone has their own part to bring. It is part of what is called the Body of Christ.

Read: 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

A group of other believers in the faith can help us when we struggle, just like in Alcoholics Anonymous groups. We sometimes struggle with our faith and need to be encouraged and helped back up.

If you have felt comfortable with people in your group or with your leader, be sure to get their contact information. You have started a good base for friendship as you keep walking the path.

❖ **CLOSE IN PRAYER**

***Suggestion:** Thank you Creator for helping us come into the fullness of You in our lives and that You are living in the people here. Grow my circle; bring people and friends into my life who will help grow me stronger in You. Bless everyone here with what and who they need and help me be someone that can help them too. Thank you for your Word and everything You have said in it to guide my life and remind me of how much You love me. Amen.*