

The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone..."  
**Genesis 2:18 (NIV)**

## IN SEARCH OF A FRIEND

The righteous choose their friends carefully, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.  
**Proverbs 12:26 (NIV)**

### 1. MINIMIZE EXPOSURE TO TOXIC FRIENDS

- **Arguing** friends

Any fool can start arguments; the honorable thing is to stay out of them.  
**Proverbs 20:3 (TEV)**

Like one who grabs a stray dog by the ears is someone who rushes into a quarrel not their own.  
**Proverbs 26:17 (NIV)**

- **Gossiping** friends

A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy person keeps a secret.  
**Proverbs 11:13 (NIV)**

A perverse person stirs up conflict, and a gossip separates close friends.  
**Proverbs 16:28 (NIV)**

- **Flattering** friends

Those who flatter their neighbors are spreading nets for their feet.  
**Proverbs 29:5 (NIV)**

- **Loose-tempered** friends

Don't hang out with angry people; don't keep company with hotheads; Bad temper is contagious— don't get infected.  
**Proverbs 22:24-25 (MSG)**

Fools give full vent to their rage, but the wise bring calm in the end.  
**Proverbs 29:11 (NIV)**

### 2. PRIORITIZE EXPOSURE TO GODLY FRIENDS

- I need people who will care for me.

It's better to have a partner than go it alone. Share the work, share the wealth. And if one falls down, the other helps, but if there's no one to help, tough!  
**Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 (MSG)**

Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.  
**Romans 12:15 (NIV)**

If one part suffers, every part suffers with it. . .  
**1 Corinthians 12:26 (NIV)**

- I need people who will encourage me.

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in Me.  
**John 14:1 (TLV)**

But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.  
**Hebrews 3:13 (NIV)**

- I need people who will partner with me.

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work.  
**Ecclesiastes 4:9 (NIV)**

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.  
**Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)**

- I need people who will protect me.

All this I have told you so that you will not go astray.  
**John 16:1 (NIV)**

A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.  
**Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NLT)**

1. Have you been in a compromising situation this week?
2. Have any of your financial dealings lacked integrity?
3. Have you viewed any sexually explicit material?
4. Have you spent quality time in Bible study and prayer?
5. Have you given priority time to your family?
6. Have you fulfilled the mandates of your calling?
7. Have you just lied to me?

### 3. TO HAVE GREAT FRIENDS, I NEED TO BE A GREAT FRIEND