



**Week 1: Acts 4: 8-20; Luke 24: 32-34**

Lord and Savior, Worker of Miracles,

I humbly pray for courage to share my faith with those who do not know You. There are many stories to tell about You--stories of unconditional love and forgiveness, of mercy and healing, of life with You. Thank you for these lessons.

After your resurrection, disciples Peter and John healed a crippled man and courageously witnessed to the unbelieving rulers. "It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed." These two disciples were ready to witness. They trusted the Holy Spirit to give them the strength and the words, even though their earthly lives were in danger. In spite of their threatening circumstances, they proclaimed, "For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

Please give me the courage of Peter and John to share what I have heard and seen about Jesus' love for me. Help me reach out to friends, family, co-workers and acquaintances to connect them with You, one person at a time.

Help my heart burn within me, as did the hearts of the two travelers on the road to Emmaus who, after meeting the resurrected Jesus, declared, "It is true! The Lord has risen!"

In Your name, Jesus,

Amen



**Week 2: Matthew 13: 1-23**

Dear Lord of heaven and earth,

Prepare my heart as "good soil," so that my faith remains strongly rooted in You and Your teachings. Your stories speak simple yet profound truths to me.

- Help me to tell Your stories to those who do not know You.
- Help me to learn and to understand all that You have done and can do to prepare me to be a courageous Christian.
- Help me to hear, read and understand Your Word so that I can, with Your guiding spirit, help others to do the same.
- Help me to recognize and seize appropriate opportunities to share my love for You and to share my faith story with friends, family, co-workers and acquaintances who do not know You.
- Help me to build bridges to people and recognize "good soil," especially in people with whom I have a relationship of trust, people experiencing times of crisis and uncertainty, and the previously churched.
- Help me to embrace my faith in You and to be fruitful.

Help me to be ***Ablaze!*** for You and to invite others to join me at this time of ***Friendship Ablaze!***

In Your name, Jesus,

Amen



**Week 3: John 1:35-51**

Dear extraordinary Friend, Jesus,

Never has there been a friend like You – willing to “go the distance” for an ordinary person like me. You can be trusted as my best friend. You love me unconditionally. You forgive me when I think, do or say things that are not pleasing to you. Sometimes I don’t realize I have made mistakes, and you forgive me for that, too. What a friend!

The friends You chose to follow you for the last three years of Your life on earth were ordinary people like me. You asked an ordinary man like Andrew, who then urged his brother Peter to follow You. Then you invited Philip, and he, in turn, invited his friend Nathanael to follow You, and they all did because You asked.

Please help me to ask my unchurched friends, family and others to follow You. Be with me as I call upon Your wisdom and strength to approach my family and friends and ask them to join me in faith during this ***Friendship Ablaze!*** celebration time and beyond!

In Your name, Jesus,

Amen



**Week 4: John 15:9-17**

Dear Jesus, truest Friend,

Thank you for picking me to be Your friend. I cling to Your sturdy vine, and pray that, with Your help, the branch that I am will continue to be strong and “bear much fruit.” I pray that the unconditional love You have shown to me will shine through me to everyone around me. I pray that everyone I meet will recognize that I am ***Ablaze!*** with Your love.

Please give me the words and wisdom to share Your messages of love and hope with those who do not know You. Help me recognize and respond to the spiritual needs of friends, family members, co-workers and acquaintances, so that they, too, can know Your love and forgiveness.

Just as You picked Your friends, Your disciples, during Your ministry on this earth, You also picked me to follow You, and to share with others Your stories and Your heavenly plans for us. You invite us all to be Your friends – to love one another as You love us. *“Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:12)*

Yours is a true ***Friendship Ablaze!***

In Your name, Jesus,

Amen