

# Reflections

## Lesson 13

Think of your closest circle of friends—that handful of people you care about the most, other than your family. As a *group*, do they...

	Almost never	Sometimes	Often
Expect you to earn their approval before they show kindness?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disrespect your beliefs or your spiritual growth?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Discourage your good relationships with family members?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Discourage you from serving in your church or another ministry?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Distract you from your schoolwork and academic development?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Expect you to fix problems they created—without taking responsibility for their actions?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Betray your trust by sharing your information in ways they shouldn't?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Push you to do things you're not comfortable with—not for your own good, but for their entertainment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disrespect or ignore boundaries you've made clear?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Make you feel unaccepted—as if you can't be yourself around them?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Refuse to be honest or vulnerable themselves?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Make it easy for you to sin or give in to weakness?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Value you not for who you are, but rather for the stuff you give them?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Take a long look at any areas under “often.”

- Do these situations occur because of one friend, or because of the group as a whole?
- Do your friends act out of thoughtlessness and immaturity, or are they hostile to your spiritual walk?

Ask God to help you discern between good friendships and bad. Politely step back from close friendships that discourage youth health and growth.

## *Peace in the Storm*

### *Meditating on Your Most Important Relationship*

*Read Jeremiah 17:5-18.*

- How does God compare the person who trust in humanity (vv.5-6) with the person who trusts in God (vv.7-8)?
- Why can't we trust ourselves (vv.9-10)—or money earned unjustly (v.11)?
- Why do we forsake when we turn from God (vv. 12-13)?
- What does Jeremiah expect God to do (vv.14-18)?