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# What a Friend We Have in Jesus

## Scripture Companion

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“Greater love has no one than this:  
to lay down one's life for one's friends.”  
— John 15:13 (NIV)

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*These scriptures accompany the beloved hymn What a Friend We Have in Jesus, written by Joseph Scriven in 1855. Each passage grounds the hymn's timeless promises in the Word of God. Use this guide for personal devotion, small group study, or quiet reflection.*

### JESUS — OUR FAITHFUL FRIEND

#### *John 15:15 (NIV)*

I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

*Jesus Himself calls us friends — the foundation of the entire hymn.*

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#### *Proverbs 18:24 (NIV)*

There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

*No human friendship matches the faithfulness of Jesus.*

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#### *Hebrews 13:8 (NIV)*

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

*His faithfulness does not change with seasons or circumstances.*

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### HE BEARS OUR SINS AND GRIEFS

#### *Isaiah 53:4 (NIV)*

Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering.

*Prophesied centuries before the cross — Jesus carries what we bring to Him.*

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#### *Isaiah 53:3 (NIV)*

He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.

*He is not a stranger to rejection — He walked through it Himself.*

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## THE PRIVILEGE AND POWER OF PRAYER

### *Philippians 4:6–7 (NIV)*

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

*Everything to God in prayer — the peace that follows transcends understanding.*

### *James 4:2 (NIV)*

You do not have because you do not ask God.

*The needless pain we bear — often simply because we have not asked.*

### *Luke 18:1 (NIV)*

Jesus told his disciples that they should always pray and not give up.

*Prayer is not a last resort — it is a first response.*

### *1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NIV)*

Pray continually.

*Three words that sum up the hymn's entire invitation.*

## JESUS KNOWS OUR EVERY WEAKNESS

### *Hebrews 4:15–16 (NIV)*

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathise with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

*He knows every weakness — and He is not repelled. He is moved with compassion.*

## NEVER BE DISCOURAGED — GOD IS WITH YOU

### *Joshua 1:9 (NIV)*

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

*The basis for courage is not our circumstances but God's presence.*

### *Isaiah 41:10 (NIV)*

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you.

*God's personal promise to strengthen and uphold us.*

## HE IS OUR REFUGE AND SHIELD

### *Psalm 46:1 (NIV)*

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

*When the load becomes unbearable — there is a place to go.*

### *Psalm 91:2 (NIV)*

He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.

*The believer's personal declaration of trust in God as refuge.*

### *Isaiah 40:11 (NIV)*

He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart.

*In his arms he'll take and shield you — the tender image that closes the hymn.*

## WHEN FRIENDS FORSAKE YOU

### *Psalm 27:10 (NIV)*

Though my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will receive me.

*Even the most foundational human relationships can fail — God does not.*

### *Psalm 121:7–8 (NIV)*

The Lord will keep you from all harm — He will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

*His shielding is not temporary — it is an everlasting watch over your life.*

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***Whatever you are carrying today — take it to the Lord in prayer.***

*All scriptures are from the NIV as noted. This resource is offered freely as a companion to the hymn What a Friend We Have in Jesus.*

*Musicministrymosaic.com*

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