



**John 14:15–18, 25–27;
15:26–27; 16:7–14**

John 14:26

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

MEMORY VERSE

But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. **John 14:26**

Has your student ever come home saying that they have the perfect friend, boyfriend, or girlfriend? Have they ever experienced a loss of a friend due to a move or even death? Your job as the parent is to console them by saying things like, “You’ll make new friends,” to which they may reply, “Not like ‘so-and-so.’”

The twelve disciples really knew what it was like to have the perfect friend. Now, He was telling them that He had to go away. He did, however, say that He would send someone else to fill His place. How convinced do you believe the disciples were?

Read the passages from John listed above. Jesus knew that in the mission He was about to entrust to His disciples and all those who would follow, He would

rule people’s lives from the inside out. The disciples didn’t understand this at that time. But they would.

Today, we know the luxury of having the Spirit of Christ—His Holy Spirit who indwells our lives and rules from the inside out. Our children can now understand that when they lose a friend who seems to be the perfect friend, there is One who really is perfect. He lives within and He has promised that He will be with us always. Encourage your child by reminding him or her that a relationship with Jesus is for keeps. They are bound to Him by the Spirit who works in their lives in so many ways—“Comforter,” “Counselor,” “Helper,” and “Teacher.” Who could have a more perfect friend?

FAMILY DEVOTION TIME

Connect . . .

A family member asks: **What does the perfect friend look like to you in qualities and characteristics? How would you know if you had the perfect friend?**

Explore . . .

First, family members share in reading John 14:15–18, 25–27; 15:26–27; 16:7–14. Then, a family member says: **Jesus was going away, and He wanted His disciples to know that His plan was not to abandon them.** Another family member asks: **What did Jesus want His disciples to know about the One He would send as their “Helper”?**

Transform . . .

Family members discuss: **How well do you know the Holy Spirit who indwells your life? How does He act in your life? How do you respond to Him and how long does it take for you to respond? Do you call Him friend? If so, why? What evidence is there to suggest that you trust Him?**

Pray that your family members will learn to lean on the Spirit who lives in them, calling them to be more like Christ.