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# LIVE IT-FOR JESUS!



We are glad to

**BE**

your Leaders!



“FOR I  
I HAVE FOR YOU.”  
DECLARES THE LORD,  
“PLANS TO  
prosper you  
AND NOT TO HARM YOU,  
PLANS TO GIVE YOU  
hope AND a future.”  
JEREMIAH 29:11

We are excited to “bee”come your new “Live It” leaders. We are looking forward to leading and learning with each of you in our walk with Christ. Please know that if you ever need anything, you can call or e-mail any of us. We will do what we can to lend an ear or a helping hand. We want you all to feel comfortable contacting us for anything. Should the need arise, below are our e-mail addresses and phone numbers.

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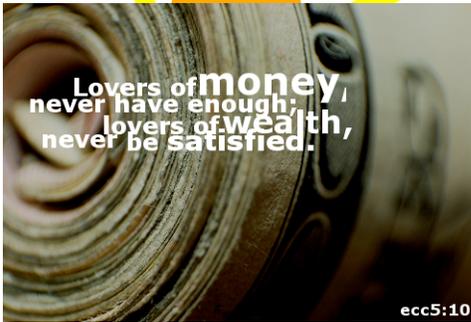
\*7-Up\* Lifting Ways to  
Start Your School Year



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1. **Wake Up-** DECIDE to have a good day! “This is the day that the Lord hath made, we will rejoice and be glad in it.” –*Psalm 118:24*
2. **Dress Up-** The best way to dress is to put on a smile. A smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.
3. **Shush Up-** Say nice things and learn to listen. “Hear counsel, and receive instruction; that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.” –*Proverbs 19:20*
4. **Stand Up-** for what you believe in! Stand for something or you will fall for anything!
5. **Look Up-** to the Lord! “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” –*Philippians 4:13*
6. **Reach Up-** for something higher. As Jiminy Cricket sings “High Hopes,” always try to better yourself. HAVE FAITH!
7. **Lift Up-** your prayers. Do not worry about anything; instead PRAY ABOUT EVERYTHING!



By Paul Asay

**\*The average family spends nearly \$700 on school supplies and clothes!\***



**What Happened:**

School's back in session, and businesses couldn't be happier. Students from middle school to college will be going back to class in new clothes, carrying new tools and often toting new cellphones. All told, it's expected to be an \$83 billion bonanza.]

The average family will spend nearly \$700 on back-to-school purchases this year. If the students are in college, the costs go up significantly: College students and their families will spend more than \$900 to go back to school—and that doesn't count the money spent on tuition, fees and schoolbooks.

All this spending comes at a time when many families are still struggling to make ends meet; and many conscientious students, whether 12 or 22, are either spending their own cash on school supplies or just trying to make it easier on their parents—telling them maybe they don't need a new backpack or that extra sweater this year. "I just go shopping when there is a good sale," 16-year-old Laine Vasquez told Reuters.

Not everyone is so frugal. For instance, most college and university students take out loans these days to pay for their education, but some of those students use their loans for more than just tuition: They buy cars, televisions and alcohol with their student loans. A few pay for their spring break trips using high-interest loans.

**Talk About It:**

Has school started for you? Have you finished shopping for all your supplies? Did it cost more than you expected to pay? Did you and your family shop more frugally this year than in years past?

Do you spend your own money on back-to-school stuff? Do your parents primarily pay? Either way, is saving money important? How do you go about it? Do you look for good sales? Shop at thrift or consignment stores? Make due with less?

Even if money isn't a huge issue in your family, is it still important to use your money wisely? Why (or why not)? Are there things you bought this year for school that you didn't really need but really, really wanted? Is it OK to splurge sometimes?

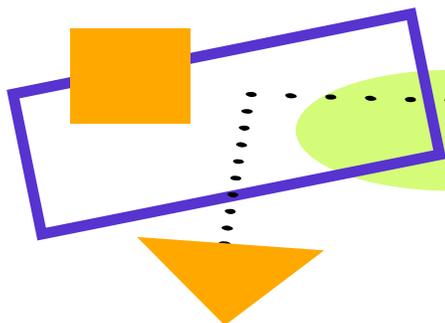
**What the Bible Says:**

"Because I love Your commands more than gold, more than pure gold, and because I consider all your precepts right, I hate every wrong path." -**Psalm 119:127**

"Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income." -**Ecclesiastes 5:10**

"How much better to get wisdom than gold, to choose understanding rather than silver." -**Proverbs 16:16**





# Finding Fantastic Friends

By Paul Asay



## What Happened:

What's a friend? It's a simple question that can have lots of different answers. For one person, a friend might be someone with whom you share your innermost secrets. For another, it might be the folks with whom you chat on Facebook. However you define friendship, though, scientists believe they're very, very important.

This is especially true when you move out of elementary school—where folks such as teachers and other adults are your primary influences—and into middle school, where your buds and BFFs take center stage.

New research shows that middle schoolers whose friends are socially active and don't make trouble in school tend to get better grades. Meanwhile, kids whose friends get into trouble a lot don't do as well in class.

This is just an extension of what folks have been saying for years: It's important who your friends are. Kids whose friends are into sports tend to play sports. Kids whose friends smoke or do drugs tend to fall into those habits, too. Middle schoolers are in the process of affecting and being affected by the people around them all the time.

"Puberty is taking place," says Thomas Dishion, an author of the study. "The brain is changing rapidly. Kids' brains are almost wired to be reading the social world to see how they fit in, and the school is the arena for it."

## Talk About It:

Who are your friends? Do most of them fit into a particular clique or category? Do you hang out with people from lots of different groups?

What makes them fun to be with? What do you like to do when you're together? Do you think your friends influence what you like or how you behave? Do you think you influence them? Are there some people who you think might be a bad influence on you?

What qualities make for a good friend? Do they need to be fun? Trustworthy? Reliable? Someone you can talk to when times get rough? What's the most important personality trait a friend should have?

Think about your best friend. What makes them such a good friend? What do you like about them? What do they like about you? How would life be different without them?

## What the Bible Says:

"He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm." -**Proverbs 13:20**

"Do not be misled: Bad company corrupts good character." -**1 Corinthians 15:33**

"In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers, to keep away from every brother who is idle and does not live according to the teaching you received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example." -**2 Thessalonians 3:6-7**

"...Encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." -**1 Thessalonians 5:11**

"We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing." -**2 Thessalonians 1:3**





## “Soul Surfer”

Soul Surfer is the next faith-based study we will complete! Soul Surfer is a story about Bethany Hamilton. Bethany was a well-known surfer by the age of thirteen and had a promising career ahead of her. On October 31, 2003, Bethany was attacked by a fourteen-foot tiger shark while surfing in Hawaii. Despite losing half of her blood and losing her left arm, Bethany was determined to continue her career. Bethany was back in the water three weeks after her injury.

Over the next few weeks, the Soul Surfer bible study will help you build a stronger relationship with God, help you discover His purpose for your life, and help you learn how to overcome unexpected tragedies and disappointments.

## September Schedule

**September 5** – Getting to Know You Session

**September 12** – “Searching for Something Bigger”

\*Gain a greater perspective by understanding God’s plans and purposes.

**September 19** – “Searching for Something Bigger”

\*Gain a greater perspective by understanding God’s plans and purposes.

**September 26** – “Trusting God in the Impact Zone”

\*Learn how to keep your faith strong when life gets tough.

**We’re on the Web!**

See us at:

[www.hollyhillwesleychurch.com](http://www.hollyhillwesleychurch.com)

