



Ideas for Including Friends in Ministry

“We all have gifts. They differ...” (Romans 12:6). Here are just a few ideas for including friends in ministry. We’ve provided examples of friends in action to illustrate situations in which the use of a gift benefits the body of Christ. Do you have ideas to add to this list? Email us: friendship@friendship.org

Understanding. *I can help others figure things out.*

Friends with the gift of understanding can:

- give input to building and worship committees about the needs of people with disabilities.
- supervise parking.
- assist counselors in girls’ or boys’ clubs.

A Friend in Action: Janelle demonstrated to her church’s building committee how much room it takes for a wheelchair to turn into a pew and sit aligned with the rest of the congregation. The committee removed a portion of several pews in various places in the sanctuary to give people in wheelchairs a comfortable place to participate in worship.

Telling. *I can tell others about Jesus.*

Friends with the gift of telling can:

- serve as a church school helper.
- play a regular role in storytelling in Friendship or for other groups.
- share their testimony with the congregation.

A Friend in Action: Carol, although nonverbal, inspired her caretaker to listen to the story about Jesus when she brought Carol to worship each Sunday. The Spirit worked in the heart of the caretaker and she accepted Jesus as her Savior.

Caring/Encouraging. *I can show Jesus’ love to others.*

Friends with the gifts of caring/encouraging can:

- participate in a phone ministry to sick and shut-in members of the church.
- help in the church nursery.
- visit or send cards to elderly or sick members of the congregation.

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Friends in Action: When Jed was hospitalized, his Friendship group sent him a package each week with cards, books, and games.

Giving. *I can share what I have with others.*

Friends with the gift of giving can:

- participate in a food or clothing drive.
- work at a food pantry.
- Collect money for Friendship Ministries or other causes.

Friends in Action: A Friendship group collected \$300 for Friendship Ministries to help buy materials, raise awareness of the program, and train mentors. They also appealed to the congregation for help with this fundraiser.

Creating. *I can make or do beautiful things.*

Friends with the gift of creating can:

- make hand-stitched or woodworking crafts for bazaars, ministry causes, or sick and elderly members of the church.
- Participate in liturgical dance or a drama for worship services.
- Sing or play a musical instrument for worship and fellowship events.

Friends in Action: A Friendship group performed the drama “The Crippled Lamb” at their church Christmas banquet. They sent a video of the performance to another Friendship group, who decided to perform it for their own church.

Leading. *I can share what I know how to do.*

Friends with the gift of leading can:

- Direct a project with a small group of Friendship members or young children.
- Lead in prayer or sign for worship services.
- Act out, tell, or read a Bible story for church school or worship.

Friends in Action: Lou Ann serves as a one-on-one Friendship mentor to Maria, a student with lower-functioning ability. She enjoys reading or retelling the Bible story so that Maria can understand it.

Helping/Serving. *I can help people.*

Friends with the gift of helping can:

- Prepare and serve coffee and snacks during the fellowship hour.
- Fold bulletins, stuff envelopes and mailboxes.
- Assist the custodian with cleaning chores, picking up litter, and so on.

A Friend in Action: Jake has made it his responsibility to gather up all the used bulletins each Sunday morning and take them to the recycling bin that the custodian sets out each week.

Praying. *I spend time talking to God.*

Friends with the gift of praying can:

- Be a part of a prayer chain or prayer group.
- Serve as a prayer partner for program leaders.
- Offer to pray when the congregation gathers for worship and fellowship.

Friends in Action: One Friendship group has a prayer request board and an answered prayer board. The group invites church members to bring their written prayer requests to them and assures them that these requests will indeed be prayed about.

Welcoming. *I can welcome friends and strangers.*

Friends with the gift of welcoming can:

- Serve as a greeter at Friendship classes and for worship services.
- Serve on a committee to welcome new members.
- Help host special events that the congregation celebrates.

Friends in Action: One Friendship group hosted a going-away party for a mentor and put together a scrapbook of memories and wishes that their mentor and her family could take with them to their new home.

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