

A scenic view of a beach with waves, a white cross, and birds in the sky. The background shows a sandy beach with gentle waves lapping at the shore. In the foreground, there are some green and brown plants. A large white cross is superimposed on the left side of the image. The sky is blue with a few birds flying.

# Senior Bible Study Ministry

<https://www.seniorbiblestudies.org/>

WHAT a

FRIEND

We have in

JESUS

## Wha A Friend We Have In Jesus

- Written by Joseph M. Scriven in 1855
- Scriven, born in Ireland, faced significant hardship, including the tragic loss of his fiancée
- He composed the hymn as a comforting poem for his mother, who lived far away
- Its profound message has since become a cherished reminder of Jesus as our friend

## What A Friend We Have In Jesus

*What a Friend we have in Jesus  
All our sins and griefs to bear  
What a privilege to carry  
Everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit  
O what needless pain we bear  
All because we do not carry  
Everything to God in prayer*

# Jesus: Friend of Sinners



## Jesus Friend of Sinners

- Jesus calls us His friends if we do what He commands

*13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.*

*(John 15:13-15 ESV)*

## Jesus Friend of Sinners

- He forgives our sins, providing ultimate relief

*9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

*(1 John 1:9 ESV)*

- He is near to the brokenhearted

*18 The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. (Psalm 34:18 ESV)*

## Jesus Friend of Sinners

- Jesus invites us to cast our cares on Him

*7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. (1 Peter 5:7 ESV)*

- We can boldly approach His throne with our needs

*16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:16 ESV)*



## What A Friend We Have In Jesus

*Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged  
Take it to the Lord in prayer  
Can we find a friend so faithful?  
Who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness  
Take it to the Lord in prayer*

The background is a watercolor-style wash of colors, including shades of purple, red, brown, and green. A prominent teal brushstroke runs horizontally across the middle of the image, serving as a backdrop for the text.

# Trials and Temptation

## Trials and Temptations

- Jesus promised peace even amid trials

*33 I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”*  
*(John 16:33 ESV)*

## Trials and Temptations

- God will not let us be tempted beyond what we can bear  
*13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. (1 Corinthians 10:13 ESV)*

## Trials and Temptations

- Prayer connects us to God's wisdom & strength

*6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7 ESV)*

- God is an ever-present help in trouble

*1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. (Psalm 46:1 ESV)*

## Trials and Temptations

- God's grace empowers us during trials

*9 But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong. (2 Corinthians 12:9-10 ESV)*

## What A Friend We Have In Jesus

*Are we weak and heavy laden?  
Cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge  
Take it to the Lord in prayer  
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?  
Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
In His arms He'll take and shield thee  
Thou will find a solace there  
In His arms He'll take and shield thee  
Thou will find a solace there*



You, Lord,  
are our  
Burden-Bearer

NanJones.com  
#FindingGodsPresence



## Burden-Bearer

- Jesus offers rest to the weary

*28 “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28-30 ESV)*

## Burden-Bearer

- God's strength is made perfect in our weakness

*29 He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. 30 Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; 31 but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.*

*(Isaiah 40:29-31 ESV)*

## Burden-Bearer

- God supports those who lean on Him

*22 Cast your burden on the Lord, and he will sustain you;  
he will never permit the righteous to be moved.  
(Psalm 55:22 ESV)*

- Prayer eases our burdens

*8 Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart  
before him; God is a refuge for us. (Psalm 62:8 ESV)*

## Burden-Bearer

- Jesus cares deeply for us

*15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.  
(Hebrews 4:15 ESV)*

## Practical Applications

- Develop a consistent prayer life, turning to Jesus as a friend in every situation.
- Practice surrendering daily worries & burdens to God.
- Remind yourself of Jesus' friendship by reading & meditating on John 15:13-15.

*13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you.*

## Practical Applications

*15 No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. (John 15:13-15 ESV)*

- Instead of carrying burdens alone, ask God for strength during trials
- Reflect the friendship of Jesus by supporting others facing difficulties.

## Discussion Questions

- How have you experienced Jesus as a friend during difficult times?
- What does it mean to cast our cares on Jesus, and how can we practice this more effectively?
- How does the hymn's message encourage you in your daily walk with Jesus?
- What burdens are you holding onto that Jesus invites you to give up?

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A scenic view of a beach with waves, a white cross, and birds in the sky. The background shows a blue ocean with white-capped waves breaking onto a sandy beach. In the foreground, there are various coastal plants, including tall grasses and low-lying shrubs. A large white cross is superimposed on the left side of the image. The sky is light blue with a few birds flying. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and serene.

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