

## Friends and Relationships

"Part of the Taizé experience is ... discovering new people, new cultures, new experiences, and finding out that **the world is full of potential friends.**" —Archbishop Rowan

### Questionnaire:

Tick the phrase that you feel is the truest and the most important. If you agree with several, then choose the one you think fits best. If you don't agree with any of them, don't tick anything.

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| <p>1. <i>When my mobile rings ...</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I check first who's calling.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I answer without looking.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I'm happy.</p> <p>2. <i>Jesus gathered people around him because...</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> he wanted to do them good.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> he loved them.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> he couldn't stand being alone.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> he wanted to create community</p> <p>3. <i>A friend ...</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> is someone you can tell everything.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> always agrees with you.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> is your equal.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> is someone who's kind when you're unhappy.</p> <p>4. <i>Changing something in my life means ...</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> doing now what I would rather leave until later.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ... no, it's impossible to change.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> taking people as they are.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> not worrying about the future.</p> <p>5. <i>When I face a challenge ...</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I'm an adventurous person.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> In order to do things that make me nervous I really have to spend a long time preparing myself.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I get by as I can.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Life without challenge is boring!</p> | <p>6. <i>When someone is unkind, I ...</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> avoid them.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> fight back.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> think someone must have hurt them.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ask them why.</p> <p>7. <i>My feeling about groups is ...</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> It's important to me to belong to a group.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I'm perfectly fine on my own.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I feel too restricted in a group.</p> <p>8. <i>Meeting people from other countries and cultures...</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> is fun.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> helps you see the world differently.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> makes me feel shy.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ... I don't know; I've never done that.</p> <p>9. <i>When I see someone being generous, I think ...</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> it's normal.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> what do they want to get?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> it's surprising.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> it's not realistic to live like that.</p> <p>10. <i>Living out my faith...</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> gives a great freedom.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> helps me overcome difficulties.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> changes my relationships with others.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> doesn't change how I am with friends.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I don't have any faith.</p> |
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### Three things in the Bible about relationships and friendship:

Jesus said: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; so that you may be children of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on the bad as well as the good, and sends down rain to fall on the upright and the wicked alike.  
(Gospel of Matthew 5:44-45)

Do not mistreat a foreigner living in your land. Foreigners living among you will be like your own people. Love them as you love yourself, because you were foreigners living in Egypt. (Book of Leviticus 19:33-34)

Jesus said to his disciples: I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father.  
(Gospel of John 15:15)

### Four questions:

- What is the difference between Facebook friends and other friends?
- Are most of your friends like you, or are they different?
- When we go to Taizé, we shall all have travelled away from home to meet others who have also come "on pilgrimage". What difference will this make to the way we meet each other?
- Is it possible to love someone, even if you cannot like them?