

Notes From

JESUS

What Your New Best Friend
Wants You to Know

by
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Hi, friend!

You know my name, but I want you to *really* know me.
Like I know you.

So let me tell you a few things about myself.

That's what you'll find in this book—stuff
I'd like you to know about me. Because that's
what friends do, right?

They meet and then they get to know each
other better. They talk, laugh together, and pretty
soon they're not just friends—they're *best* friends.

That's what I want for us. No
matter how long we've been
friends, we can always become
better friends. I'd like that, and
I think you'll like it, too.

So let's get started—right now.

Jesus



i WANT YOU TO KNOW...

I know it's hard when you can't see me.

Your other friends come over to hang out. But me—I'm invisible. That may make it hard to remember I'm there and that I care.

But I *am* there. If you've decided to follow me, I'm closer than any of your other friends. They live down the block but, through my Holy Spirit, I live *in* you. And every minute of every day, I'm at work in you and around you.

When you feel moved to help someone, that's me.

When you see love in the world, I'm behind that.

And when you feel peace even when things are hard...yup, that's me.

I'll help you remember and believe, but you've got to do your part, too. You've got to look for me. Believe in me. Listen for my voice.

Because I'm there.



Here's how we can become even better friends...
The next time you pray, sit facing an empty chair. Imagine I'm in the chair, listening to you. I *am* listening, you know. I hear every word.

“BLESSED
ARE THOSE WHO
BELIEVE



WITHOUT
SEEING ME.”



(JOHN 20:29)

i WANT YOU TO KNOW...



I don't just love you—I *like* you, too.

People talk a lot about how much I love them. And I *do* love them, just like I love you. It's because I love you that I came to earth to die on a cross so your sins can be forgiven.

That's *real* love, you know: laying down your life for someone.

But don't miss this: I *like* you, too.

I know everything about you, and I still choose you to be my friend. That's right—I know the things you don't want anyone to know. All your secrets.

I know them—all of them—and I still pick you to be my friend. I like who you are and who you're becoming.

And I *really* like knowing that you like me, too.

Here's how we can become even better friends...

Because I know you and *still* love and like you, we don't need to keep things from one another. You can tell me anything and I won't get mad or leave. So let's be honest with each other. Tell me what's *really* going on.





“THERE IS NO GREATER LOVE THAN TO LAY DOWN
ONE'S LIFE FOR ONE'S FRIENDS.” (JOHN 15:13)

i WANT YOU TO KNOW...

You can trust me.



Have you ever had a friend who's happy to see you one minute and then a grouch the next minute? Well, that's not me.

I'm the same from day to day. From year to year. Through all time. I'm always loving, always caring, always ready to keep my promises. That means you can trust me. Even if everything else you count on is falling apart, you can trust me.

If I tell you I'll do it, I'll do it. If I say I mean it, I mean it. You can take me at my word and know that I'll never, ever lie to you.

I'm here for you. Trust me.



i'M THE SAME
YESTERDAY,
TODAY, AND
FOREVER.

(FROM HEBREWS 13:8)



Here's how we can become even better friends...

Everyone says, "You can trust me!" But they don't all mean it. Do this: Find someone who's known me a long time—maybe a parent, a pastor, or a friend. Ask, "How has Jesus shown that he can be trusted?" Listen to the stories they share. You'll see.

An illustration of Jesus with a yellow halo, wearing a white robe with a red sash, and brown boots. He is standing in the rain, holding the hand of a young girl with orange hair, wearing an orange and brown plaid dress. They are standing in a dark puddle. The background is a teal color with white raindrops falling. The text "WITH ME, YOU'RE SAFE." is written in white, red, and yellow letters at the bottom. Below it, in smaller black letters, is "(FROM PROVERBS 18:10)".

WITH ME, YOU'RE SAFE.

(FROM PROVERBS 18:10)

i WANT YOU TO KNOW...

I've got your back.

Friends can stick close when times get hard. Well, *some* friends stick close. Others disappear when bullies show up. When you have problems at school. When you're sad because your family is fighting.

I'm a friend who sticks with you. No matter what.

I'll help you solve the tough stuff. And when there's nothing you can do to fix a problem, I'll stay with you as you go through it. You can call on me anytime, day or night. I'll listen...because I love you. There's nothing you can say or do that will make me turn my back on you.

When hard times come, I'm with you.

I'm not going anywhere.

I've got your back.



Here's how we can become even better friends...

Feeling safe is wonderful, isn't it? When you and I are friends, you're safe. When troubles come, you won't be alone. You'll have me. Tell me: In what ways don't you feel safe today? Let's talk about that.

i WANT YOU TO KNOW...

I'm your cheerleader.

A friend doesn't get jealous when things go well for you. A friend pats you on the back and cheers you on. A friend is happy for you.

That's me.

I'm your biggest cheerleader. I want you to do well. Even more, I want you to do *good*—to live a life that shows you and I are friends. A life that reminds people you're becoming more like me every day. That means you might not always get to be in the spotlight, because you'll be serving someone else. You might not win races, because you've stopped to help people who slipped get back on their feet.

That's okay. You're doing well. You're doing *good*. I'll be there to applaud and encourage you. I'm happy for you!



Here's how we can become even better friends...

Tell me about a jealous person you know. It might be a friend, a family member, or even you. What would change if that person cheered others on instead of being jealous of them?

“if **GOD** is
FOR US, WHO
CAN EVER BE

AGAINST
US?”

(ROMANS 8:31)





YOU'RE
MY

MASTERPIECE!

(FROM EPHESIANS 2:10)

i WANT YOU To know...

I made you for a purpose.

You're not an accident. Or a mistake. You're who you are, where you are, because I put you there on purpose.

You're one of a kind.

Nobody else in all the world laughs quite like you laugh. Nobody else has your blend of skills, hopes, and dreams. Nobody else sees the world quite like you see it. I have so many things I want you to do. There are so many adventures waiting for you.

And only *you* can do them. Because I made you just like you are on purpose.

And I did a *wonderful* job, if I do say so myself.



Here's how we can become even better friends...

I know I did a great job making you. But do *you* know that? Maybe people say things that make you feel less than wonderful. Do this for me: Tell me what I did really, really well when I made you. And then thank me. And you're welcome!

i WANT YOU TO KNOW...

You're worth more than anything else.

Do you know how much I think you're worth? I can tell you—exactly. You're worth my life. You're worth the pain of dying on a cross. I did that so we could be friends and you could be with me forever.

The stars in the sky? I made them—but I didn't die for them. All the gold and diamonds hiding in the hills? I made them—but they weren't worth my dying for them. Nothing I've made was worth the cross except for you. You and the rest of the people I love.

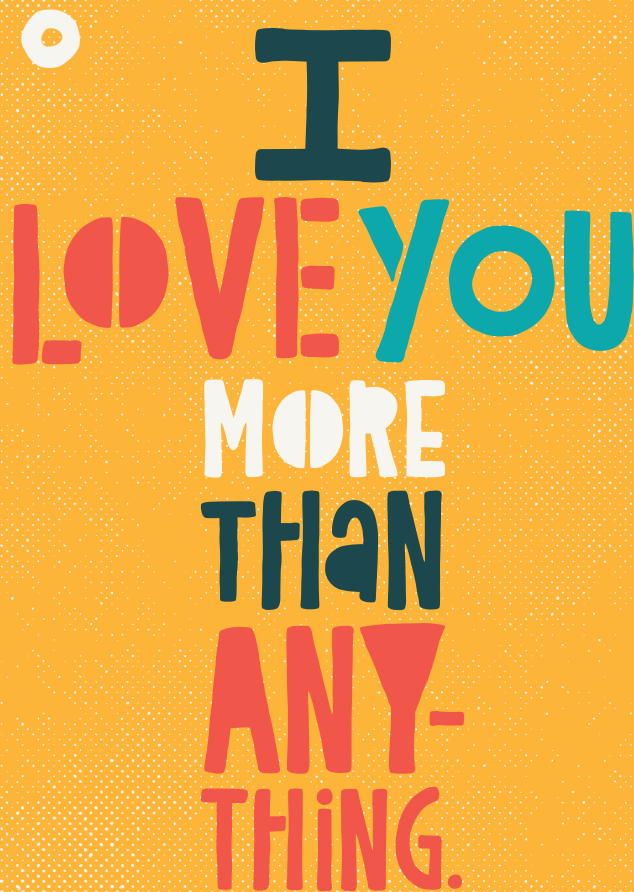
So don't let anyone tell you you're not special. You are. You're special to me.

Don't let anyone tell you that you're unworthy. You *are* worthy, because you're worth everything to me.



Here's how we can become even better friends...

It's easy for my voice to get drowned out by other voices. It's easy to forget that I love you more than life itself. More than anything else in the entire universe. Read my note above out loud. Make sure you hear it and that my words sink deeply into your heart.



I
LOVE you
MORE
THAN
ANY-
THING.

(FROM JOHN 3:16)

