



XP (EXPERIENCE PIECE)

Real Friends

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

OVERVIEW

This individual XP will help students identify the kind of friends they want to have in each of their circles (and even who those friends may be!).

- Your students
- Enough of the “Guard Your Inner Circle” handouts for each of your students to have one

WHAT YOU’LL NEED

HOW-TO

This XP is both a small group and individual XP. It will start at the end of small group after week two of the *Real Friends* series and carry on as students head home that week.

Note: It’s important that you do NOT have students write any names on the handout during group. We want to avoid any situation where a student feels excluded from a friend group or embarrassed because they may not have as many names to list as others. It’s important for your leaders to understand that their role is simply to help facilitate brainstorming of traits and qualities for each friend circle and NOT to let students start listing specific names.

WHAT TO DO

To prepare, print out enough handouts so that each student can have one and give them to your Small Group Leaders to pass out at the end of group. The Small Group Leader Guide for week two will cue SGLs to walk through the first part of the XP handout together as a group.

As a group, students will brainstorm the qualities they want friends to have in their inner circle, middle circle, and outer circle. In other words, the qualities they’re looking for in their friends, good friends, and best friends. Once groups have brainstormed some qualities together, they’ll list them out in the top half of each circle on the handout.

At that point, the “group” part of the XP is done, and the Small Group Leader Guide will cue SGLs to have their students complete the rest of the handout—the part that asks students to name and “categorize” certain friends—at home.

NEXT STEP

It’s important to remember that every student will be approaching this XP from a different place. While some may feel like they have a lot of friends or are secure in the friendships they have, others may feel like their friend group is too small or maybe even nonexistent. With that in mind, consider following up on this XP by asking your SGLs to send a quick text or note to their students. Ask leaders to remind their students that, in them, they’ve always got a friend they can hang out with, come to, and confide in.