

Building friendship

by [Adam Hearlson](#)

March 7, 2025

What's the Bible for? We asked dozens of writers to respond to this question in seven words or less, as well as to expand on their response in a few sentences. To see all of the responses together as they are posted, bookmark this [page](#).

Building friendship

The Talmud says that the Torah should be studied not alone, but with others. Our Jewish neighbors call the communal scriptural interpretation *havruta*, which means "friend." We build community by reading scripture together. But more than that, the Bible is an opportunity to grow in friendship with the interpreters throughout the centuries. We can become friends with Augustine of Hippo, Hildegard of Bingen, and St. Moses of Ethiopia, and even Paul himself. And if Paul, then God also, the object of all scripture. The Bible shows us how to become God's friend and, more importantly, to assure us that God is ours.