Family Resemblance
Friendship Day 2015

INTRODUCTION:
A. Most of us have some resemblance to our physical family.
B. We were created in the image and likeness of our heavenly Father (Gen. 1:26-27; Eph. 4:24).
C. Let’s consider four ways we as children of God, should resemble our heavenly father when it comes to how we deal with those who are lost.

DON’T BE A RESPECTER OF PERSONS
A. God does not favor people because of who they are or what they do (Acts 10:27-29; 34-35).
B. Favoritism is forbidden throughout scripture (Deut. 10:17-19; Jam. 2:1-4, 8-11).
C. Our actions and/or lack of actions can demonstrate favoritism toward certain individuals.

BELIEVE IN PEOPLE
A. God believes the best in people even when we may not (Acts 9:10-16, 26-28).
B. Loving our neighbor means believing the best in them (I Cor. 13:4-7).
C. When we fail to believe in others, we are failing to believe in God.

EXTEND GRACE AND MERCY TO PEOPLE
A. God is in the business of grace and mercy (Eph. 2:4-9).
B. God doesn’t extend grace and mercy because of who we are, but because of who He is (Psa. 86:5).
C. Just as God is gracious and merciful, we ought to be gracious and merciful as well (Luke 6:36).

CELEBRATE WHEN PEOPLE CHANGE
A. We are a culture that likes to celebrate, especially when it comes to the physical.
B. God celebrates every time a lost person is found (Lk. 15:22-33).
C. When a sinner repents and makes his or her life right with God, a soul has been saved from death (Jam. 5:19-20). This should cause celebration among Christians.

CONCLUSION:
A. As children of God, we ought to resemble God in how we see and treat those who are lost.
B. God has gone to great depths to save those who are lost.
C. What depths are you and I willing to go for those who are lost?