

Life Principle: Friendship Myth - Baucis and Philemon

[Baucis and Philemon](#), an old couple from the land of Phrygia, showed [hospitality](#) toward the [gods](#) and were rewarded. According to Greek myth, the gods Zeus* and Hermes* assumed human form and visited earth disguised as poor travelers. When they reached Phrygia, they looked for shelter but were turned away by everyone except Philemon and his wife, Baucis.

The old couple gladly shared their small amount of food and wine with the strangers. Baucis and Philemon realized that their guests were gods after noticing that the wine jug never ran out and that their poor wine was replaced by wine of the finest quality. [Zeus](#) and Hermes led the couple to a [hill](#) above [Phrygia](#) and sent a flood to destroy the land to punish the people who had turned them away. Only the old couple's house remained undamaged. Zeus made the house a temple to the gods and awarded Baucis and Philemon two wishes: to serve as priest and priestess of the temple and, when the time came, to die together. Many years later, when the moment of their deaths came, Baucis and Philemon were [transformed](#) into trees with [intertwined](#) branches.

[Baucis and Philemon - Full version](#)

[Friendship Myth Choice Worksheet](#)

[Life Principle Choice Worksheet](#)

[Baucis and Philemon myth with audio and activity](#)

[Baucis and Philemon myth and activities](#)

Step 1: Question Focus: "Friendship"

[Question Focus Technique Instructions](#)

Step 2: Produce Questions.

Rules for producing questions:

1. Ask as many questions as you can.
2. Change any statements into questions.
3. Write down every question exactly as stated.
4. Do not stop to discuss, judge, or answer the questions.

Step 3: Improve the Questions.

- 1) Identify open and closed-ended questions.
- 2) Change questions: select one question to change from open to closed-ended and one closed question to open-ended.

Example: *Closed to open*

What are two ways Baucis and Philemon showed hospitality?

What effect did Baucis and Philemon's hospitality have?

