

Ingredients of Friendship
Forging Friendships Series
Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think so many people struggle to have true, lasting friendships in our culture? How and when do you see the friendship challenge show up among people you know?
2. How does, or should, being a follower of Jesus enable us to make and keep real friends? What does faith in Jesus change about our relationships?
3. What Scriptures can you think of that instruct, command, or teach that the gospel should transform the way people relate to one another? (Ex. Colossians 3, Ephesians 5, Philippians 2, Romans 14-15)
4. Read Philippians 2:3-5. Based on these verses, explain how the gospel opens the door to the kinds of relationships that produce and sustain friendship.
5. What key behaviors can we develop that make us the kind of a person other people will trust? How does careful listening contribute?
6. What is a “conversational narcissist”? What is a “shift response”? How does responding to people in this way erect barriers to trust and friendship?
7. Read 1 John 1:7. What is the value of transparency? Why is transparency so important among followers of Jesus?
8. How does believing the gospel of Jesus free us up to be trustworthy and transparent, and safe for others to be transparent with?
9. Read Matthew 6:1. What does Jesus mean by “practicing your righteousness”? Is that limited to religiousness? If he was talking about the religious leaders of his day, how did that show up in what they did and believed about themselves?
10. If your group has done Life Maps, what did you learn from the exercise? If you have not, how could they be a tool to help us practice trustworthiness and transparency?