

How to HOST Friendships

Preparing for REIGNITE: Pre-Message 1

September 12, 2021 | Pastor Brian

"A mirror reflects a man's face, but what he is really like is shown by the kind of friends he chooses." (Proverbs 27:19, The Living Bible)

"The righteous choose their friends carefully." (Proverbs 12:26a, TNIV)

We Need Friends Who:

1. **ACCEPT** us.

"Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God." (Romans 15:7, NIV)

2. **LOVE** us.

"Friends love through all kinds of weather." (Proverbs 17:17a, The Message)

3. **SUPPORT** us.

"You are better off to have a friend than to be all alone...If you fall, your friend can help you up. But if you fall without having a friend nearby, you are really in trouble...By yourself you're unprotected. With a friend you can face the worst." (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, 12, CEV/The Message)

4. **PRAY** for us.

"Daniel asked his friends to pray that the God of heaven would show them mercy and help them understand this secret..." (Daniel 2:18, NCV)

"A gossip tells everything, but a true friend will keep a secret." (Proverbs 11:13, CEV)

5. **DO LIFE** with us.

"When others are happy, be happy with them. If they are sad, share their sorrow." (Romans 12:15, The Living Bible)

6. **STICK** with us.

"There are 'friends' who destroy each other, but a real friend sticks closer than a brother." (Proverbs 18:24, NLT)

7. **INSPIRE** us.

"As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend." (Proverbs 27:17, NLT)

"Wise friends make you wise, but you hurt yourself by going around with fools." (Proverbs 13:20, CEV)

8. **FORGIVE** us.

“You will keep your friends if you forgive them, but you will lose your friends if you keep talking about what they did wrong.” (Proverbs 17:9, CEV)

9. **CORRECT** us.

“A truly good friend will openly correct you. You can trust a friend who corrects you, but kisses from an enemy are nothing but lies.” (Proverbs 27:5–6, CEV)

10. **BELIEVE IN** us.

“This is my command: Love one another the way I loved you. This is the very best way to love. Put your life on the line for your friends...I’m no longer calling you servants...I call you friends!” (John 15:12-15, The Message/NCV)

WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A **H.O.S.T.**

H **EART** FOR PEOPLE.

“Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from the boat, and he had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd...” (Mark 6:34, NLT)

O **PEN** YOUR HOME.

“Open your homes to each other, without complaining.” (1 Peter 4:9, NCV)

“Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.” (Romans 12:13, NIV)

S **ERVE** SNACKS.

“And all the believers met together constantly and shared everything with each other...They worshiped together regularly at the Temple each day, met in small groups in homes for Communion, and shared their meals with great joy and thankfulness, praising God.” (Acts 2:44–46, The Living Bible)

T **URN ON** THE TEACHING.

“...When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately.” (Acts 18:26, NIV)

ACTION STEP:
SIGN UP TO HOST A GROUP!

“You can develop a healthy, robust community that lives right with God and enjoy its results only if you do the hard work of getting along with each other, treating each other with dignity and honor.” (James 3:18, The Message)