



# Sermon Guide: Friendships 11/2/25

**Text(s):** Proverbs 13:20; 18:1; 27:5-6; 17:17; 18:24; 25:17; 27:17; 17:9; 27:14; 20:6; 27:9

**Big Idea:** *Part of walking in God's wisdom is learning how to choose, keep, and be a wise friend.*

---

**Summary of the Sermon** - Friendship is one of God's greatest gifts and one of His primary tools for shaping us into people of wisdom. Proverbs teaches that true friendship is **distinct** in its chosen love, **discovered** through discernment, **defining** in how it shapes our lives, and **developed** through faithfulness, honesty, and wise counsel.

And ultimately, every proverb about friendship points us to Jesus — the faithful, honest, and wise Friend who never leaves us and teaches us how to love others as He has loved us.

---

## Discussion Questions

1. What makes friendship different from other relationships like family or romance? How have you seen that distinction play out in your life?
2. Proverbs shows that friendship is vital to wise living. Why do you think many people today treat it as optional or secondary?
3. Who are the people currently shaping your walk with Christ? Are they helping you move toward wisdom or away from it?
4. Proverbs 12:26 NIV says, "The righteous choose their friends carefully." What does "choosing carefully" look like practically? BONUS: have a discussion about the difference in translation from the NIV and ESV. What are your thoughts based on context?
5. Proverbs says, "Faithful are the wounds of a friend." How do you respond when a friend tells you some hard truth? How can you grow in giving and receiving truth graciously?
6. Think of a time when a friend's influence made you wiser — or led you astray. What did that experience teach you about the power of friendship?
7. What role does spiritual counsel play in your friendships? How can you make your conversations more Christ-centered and wise?
8. What is one step you can take this week to *be* a wiser, more faithful friend to someone in your life?
9. Friendship being a relationship of choice was a central theme this week. Have you experienced the busyness or constraints of life have an adverse impact on your friendships? How could you work to make wise friendships more of a priority in your life?
10. When you think about Jesus in the garden — faithful even when His friends failed Him — what does that reveal about the kind of friend He is to you? How does your relationship with Him influence what kind of friend you are?