



## **Discussion Guide - Relationship Science**

### **Week 1: Cultivating Godly Friendships**

## **Discussion Questions**

### **1. Loyalty – Sticking Through Thick and Thin**

#### *Scriptures:*

- Proverbs 17:17
- 1 Samuel 18:3

#### *Questions:*

- How do these verses define loyalty in friendship?
- Can you share an experience where a friend's loyalty was evident during a challenging time?
- In what ways can we demonstrate unwavering loyalty to our friends today?

### **2. Honesty – Speaking the Truth in Love**

#### *Scriptures:*

- Proverbs 27:6
- 2 Samuel 12:1-7

#### *Questions:*

- Why is honesty crucial in maintaining healthy friendships?
- Reflecting on Nathan's confrontation with David, how can we approach friends lovingly when they err?
- Have you ever been corrected by a friend? How did it affect your relationship?

### **3. Encouragement – Lifting Each Other Up**

#### *Scriptures:*

- 1 Thessalonians 5:11

- Acts 9:26-27

*Questions:*

- What role does encouragement play in deepening friendships?
- How did Barnabas's support influence Saul's (Paul's) ministry?
- In what practical ways can we encourage our friends in their faith and daily lives?

#### **4. Shared Faith – Pursuing God Together**

*Scriptures:*

- Proverbs 27:17
- Proverbs 13:20
- Acts 16:25-26

*Questions:*

- How does shared faith strengthen the bond between friends?
- What are the benefits and challenges of holding each other accountable in spiritual growth?
- Can you recall a time when pursuing God together with a friend led to a transformative experience?

#### **5. Selflessness – Putting Others First**

*Scriptures:*

- Philippians 2:3-4
- Proverbs 18:24

*Questions:*

- Why is selflessness essential in fostering lasting friendships?
- How can we prioritize our friends' needs without neglecting our well-being?
- Share an instance where putting a friend's needs above your own strengthened your relationship.

#### **Invitation to Reflect on Ultimate Friendship**

*Scripture:*

- John 15:13

*Questions:*

- How does Jesus exemplify the ultimate friend through His sacrificial love?

- In what ways can we emulate Christ's love in our friendships?
  - What steps can we take to deepen our relationship with Jesus, the greatest friend?
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**Next Steps:**

- Identify one area discussed where you can improve in your friendships and commit to taking action this week.
- Pair up with another group member to pray for each other throughout the week, focusing on the discussed traits.
- Consider reaching out to a friend you haven't connected with recently and express your appreciation for their friendship.