

## Summary

This sermon explores the importance of deep, meaningful relationships using the analogy of Velcro's hook and loop system. Pastor Andy explains that while 75% of Americans feel connected to friends and family, 54% actually feel isolated and alone, highlighting the difference between superficial connections and genuine relationships. He emphasizes that we all have 'loops' in our lives where others can attach their 'hooks,' but we need the right people making deep connections. The sermon focuses on finding 'sticky friends' – those who stick closer than a brother, as described in Proverbs 18:24. These are the 3-5 people we can truly confide in, confess to, and count on through life's challenges.

## Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You today grateful for the relationships You've placed in our lives. As we gather to discuss the importance of deep, meaningful friendships, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to what You want to teach us. Help us to be vulnerable and honest with one another, and show us how to be the kind of sticky friends that others need. Guide our conversation and help us to grow closer to You and to each other through this time together. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

## Ice Breaker

What's the stickiest situation you've ever been in – literally or figuratively?

## Key Verses

- Proverbs 18:24
- Proverbs 27:6
- Proverbs 27:9
- Acts 2:42
- Acts 2:46
- Romans 12:12
- Colossians 4:2

## Questions

- Pastor Andy mentioned that 75% of Americans feel connected but 54% feel isolated. Why do you think there's such a gap between feeling connected and actually being connected?
- Using the Velcro analogy, what are some of the 'loops' in your life where people can attach their 'hooks'? How do you decide who gets access to those spaces?
- What's the difference between Facebook friends, connected friends, and sticky friends in your own life? Can you identify people in each

category?

- Pastor Andy said we need to 'adhere to positive people.' How do negative relationships affect our spiritual and emotional health? Share an example if you're comfortable.
- Why is persistent prayer so crucial in developing and maintaining sticky friendships? How has prayer impacted your relationships?
- What does it mean to 'adhere to pure principles' when choosing close friends? How important is it that your closest friends share your values and beliefs?
- Pastor Andy gave three tests for sticky friends: Can I count on them? Can I confess to them? Can I confide in them? How do these three elements work together to create deep friendship?
- The sermon mentioned that 'iron sharpens iron' can be a destructive-looking process with sparks flying. How do we receive correction or 'sharpening' from friends without getting offended?

### Life Application

This week, evaluate your current friendships using the three connection tests: Can I count on them? Can I confess to them? Can I confide in them? Choose one relationship that has potential to become a 'sticky friendship' and take one practical step to deepen that connection - whether through spending intentional time together, having a vulnerable conversation, or committing to pray for that person regularly.

### Key Takeaways

- Superficial connections will not produce fulfilling friendships - we need deep, meaningful relationships
- We must actively 'adhere' ourselves to the right people - no one else can do this for us
- Sticky friends are found by adhering to positive people, persistent prayer, and pure principles
- True friendship involves being able to count on someone, confess to them, and confide in them
- Like Velcro, the deeper the connection, the stronger the relationship and the harder it is to pull apart

### Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for being the ultimate example of a friend who sticks closer than a brother. You laid down Your life for us and have never left us or forsaken us. Help us to be that kind of friend to others - loyal, trustworthy, and committed through thick and thin. Show us where we need to invest more deeply in relationships and give us wisdom to choose friends who will sharpen us and draw us closer to You. Help us to be positive, prayerful, and principled in all our relationships. May our friendships be a reflection of Your love and bring glory to Your name. In Jesus' name, Amen.