



MANNA CHURCH HAWAII - SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Sept 20, 2026 | Built Different pt. 2 - "Friendships as a Foundation"

ICEBREAKER QUESTIONS: If you could spend an entire day with any friend doing anything you wanted, what would you guys do?

MESSAGE SUMMARY & SCRIPTURES:

Jesus gives us a clear command in John 15:12-15: "Love one another as I have loved you." Jesus calls us His friends and shows us that friendship is more than simply having people around us. It is about loving, caring, supporting, honoring, encouraging, and being willing to sacrifice for one another. As children of God, we are called to be holy, which means set apart, and one of the ways God builds and forms us is through the people He places in our lives. Formation comes through Fathering, and often the people God uses to shape us are the friends walking alongside us.

Who we walk with matters because our closest relationships influence who we are becoming. Proverbs 13:20 says, "The one who walks with the wise will become wise, but a companion of fools will suffer harm." We cannot be close friends with everyone, and that is okay. Jesus Himself modeled healthy friendship capacity. He loved everyone, but He did not give everyone the same level of access. He had the crowds, His circle of care, His 12 disciples, and His 3 closest friends. Our relationships can have different levels of closeness too, and we need people who know the real us, bring out the best in us, and help us become more like Jesus. At the same time, we are called to have genuine friendships with people who don't know Jesus, loving them as Christ loves us while making sure we are influencing them toward God more than they are influencing us away from Him.

God also uses relationships to grow us, and sometimes growth comes through relationships that are uncomfortable. The enemy wants to isolate us, especially from the relationships God can use to build us, encourage us, and challenge us. Growth requires discomfort, and Hebrews 12:7,11 reminds us that God deals with us as His children and that discipline, although painful in the moment, can produce the peaceful fruit of righteousness. Instead of always running away when we are offended, uncomfortable, or challenged, we can ask what God may be teaching us through the relationship. The Body of Christ is made up of people, which means people are one of the most common ways God grows, builds, and blesses us. As we look at our circles of influence, we can ask, "Who am I walking with, and are these relationships helping me become who God has called me to be?" Sometimes being "Built Different" means God is calling us to make some friendSHIFTS.

GOING DEEPER: (break up into groups of no more than 4-6 for discussion)

1. Share something that stood out to you from the message or the summary?
2. Who are some people who have had a big influence on the person you have become, and what did you learn from them?
3. What qualities make you feel safe enough to be yourself and build a deeper friendship with someone?
4. Proverbs 13:20 reminds us that who we walk with matters. What is God showing you about your friendships right now? Is there a relationship you need to invest in, create more space for, or set a healthier boundary around? What is one step of obedience you can take this week?

PRAYER: (break up into groups of 2-3 for prayer):

Father, thank You for the people You place in our lives and for the way You use relationships to form us, grow us, and help us become who You have called us to be. Help us walk closely with You and receive the people and relationships You use to build us. Teach us to love our friends with the selflessness, care, honesty, sacrifice, and grace that Jesus has shown us. Help us build genuine friendships with people who do not yet know You and let our relationships show them what Your love looks like. Amen.



MANNA CHURCH HAWAII - SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Sept 20, 2026 | Built Different pt. 2 - "Friendships as a Foundation"

MANNAYOUTH DISCUSSION GUIDE

ICEBREAKER QUESTIONS: If you could spend an entire day with any friend doing anything you wanted, what would you guys do?

MESSAGE SUMMARY & SCRIPTURES:

Jesus gives us a clear command in John 15:12-15: "Love one another as I have loved you." Jesus calls us His friends and shows us that friendship is about more than just having people to hang out with. It means caring for each other, encouraging each other, showing up when things are hard, celebrating each other, and being willing to put others before ourselves. God also uses the people in our lives to help us grow and become more like Jesus. The friends we spend the most time with can shape the person we are becoming.

Who we walk with matters. Proverbs 13:20 says, "The one who walks with the wise will become wise, but a companion of fools will suffer harm." We cannot be best friends with everyone, and that is okay. Jesus loved everyone, but He had different levels of closeness with people. He had the crowds, His 12 disciples, and His 3 closest friends. Our friendships can have different levels of closeness too. We need friends who know the real us, encourage us, tell us the truth, and help us become more like Jesus. We are also called to have real friendships with people who do not know Jesus, but we should make sure we are influencing them toward Jesus more than they are pulling us away from Him.

God can also use friendships that are uncomfortable to help us grow. Sometimes a friend, teammate, classmate, sibling, parent, or leader may challenge us or point out something we need to work on. Our first reaction might be to get offended, shut down, leave the group chat, or avoid that person. But Hebrews 12:7,11 reminds us that God uses correction to help us grow. Instead of always running away when a relationship gets difficult, we can ask, "God, what are You trying to teach me?" The people God places around us can encourage us, challenge us, and help us become who He has called us to be. Sometimes being "Built Different" means God is calling us to make some friendSHIFTS.

GOING DEEPER: (break up into groups of no more than 4-6 for discussion)

1. Share something that stood out to you from the message or the summary?
2. Who are some people who have had a big influence on who you are becoming, and what have you learned from them?
3. What qualities make you feel safe enough to be yourself and build a deeper friendship with someone? What makes someone a good friend?
4. Proverbs 13:20 reminds us that who we walk with matters. What is God showing you about your friendships right now? Is there a friendship you need to invest in, spend more time with, or create a healthier boundary around? What is one step of obedience you can take this week?

PRAYER: (break up into groups of 2-3 for prayer):

Father, thank You for the friends, family, teammates, classmates, and leaders You place in our lives. Help us choose friendships that encourage us to grow closer to You and become more like Jesus. Teach us to be the kind of friends who love, encourage, forgive, tell the truth, and show up for others. Help us build genuine friendships with people who do not yet know You, and let the way we love them show them what Your love looks like. Amen.

We have Water Baptism happening on September 20th at Nimitz Cove 3:30pm! If you're interested in being baptized, you can find more information and sign up here: [Water Baptism & Child Dedications](https://www.hawaii.manna.church/baptisms-child-dedications) - <https://www.hawaii.manna.church/baptisms-child-dedications>

Referenced Scripture: John 15:12-15 CSB, 1 Peter 1:14-16 CSB, Hebrews 12:7,11 CSB

Identity changes _____!

Formation comes through _____.

God's Presence is conditional and distant vs God's Presence is _____ and intimate

Friendship = _____ Interests/values + Quality _____

Built different friendships _____ more than they take and look to _____ the other person.

Proverbs 13:20 *The one who walks with the wise will become wise, but a companion of fools will suffer harm.*

You will walk _____ who you walk _____.

Friendship Capacity (Circle of....)

- Circle of _____: 3-5 people, they know everything about you.
- Circle of _____: 10-15 people; they are close friends, there's mutual influence

1 Corinthians 15:33 *"Don't be deceived; bad company corrupts good morals."*

- Circle of _____: 100-120 people; you care about each other but you're not super close
- Circle of _____: everyone else; you have a friendly posture toward them.

1 Peter 5:8 *Your adversary the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour.*

If Satan can _____ you, he has effectively _____ you and will eventually _____ you.

The greater the _____, the greater the _____.

Growth requires _____.

Discussion Guide/Going Deeper:



Growth Track:



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