



bigIdea small group discussion

Having friends is great. Whether you want one, or you already have one, there's just something about having other people in your life who you can count on. For many, friendships just happen. A new friend is in the right place at the right time. And while friendships may start out randomly, there is an intentionality about who we allow close to us—and that's not necessarily a bad thing. Because the people who are closest to you have influence on your life. They help shape who you are. So who are the friends closest to you, and how are they influencing you?



BIG IDEA: Who you're hanging with determines where you're headed.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How has social media impacted your friendships for better or for worse?
2. Do you have the right friends? Do you feel you are getting adequate time with those friends?
3. How do you know when a friend has your best interest at heart?
4. How do you know when a friendship is healthy or unhealthy?
5. How present are you in your friendships? How transparent are you? If there is one of these things you need to work on, what is it and what are you going to do about it?
6. Chris said, "Who you're hanging with determines where you're headed. Show me your friends and I'll show you your future. How have you experienced this truth in your life?"
7. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read 1 Samuel 18:1-4.* As you read about the friendship of David and Jonathan, how do your own friendships compare? Do you have any deep and strong friendships like that?
8. The friendship of Jonathan was vital to David at this time in his life: Saul resented him and Jonathan may well have been his only friend in the palace. God used Jonathan to keep David safe for a time. Reflect on your own friendships—how has God used them during the past week? The past month?

Pastor Chris gave us three characteristics of a covenant friendship: 1) They are God-centered. 2) They are secure. 3) They are sacrificial.
9. *Healthy friendships are God-centered.* Does this describe any of your friendships? What do you think are some ways we can tell if a friendship is Spirit-born?
10. *Healthy friendships are secure.* Despite his father's jealousy and anger towards David, Jonathan stood firm in his commitment to their friendship. Reflect on a time in your life when a friend stuck with you during adversity—what did that teach you about the importance of strong friendship?
11. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Proverbs 17:17.* Can your friends count on a similar level of commitment from you?
12. *Healthy friendships are sacrificial.* Do you consider sacrifice an important part of friendship?

13. What are some examples of instances where friends have sacrificed for you? When you have sacrificed for them? How did that strengthen the friendship?
14. Why do you think it is important to pursue healthy friendships?
15. What are some characteristics you would use to describe your friendships? Do any of them display all three characteristics above? Are there any friendships you need to invest more in?
16. What are some of the things that keep you from having truly authentic friendships?
17. What was your biggest take-away from the weekend message?

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Rediscover the lost art of friendship and become the friend you need to be by reading and talking over the following Bible passages this week.

Day 1: Proverbs 13:20

Day 2: Proverbs 17:17

Day 3: Hebrews 10:19-25

Day 4: James 5:13-20

Day 5: John 15:9-17

Day 6: John 13:34-35

Day 7: Proverbs 27:5-6

MOVING FORWARD

- What do you feel like God is asking you to do in response to this message? What's your next step?
- How can your Community Group support you and hold you accountable in this?
- What are some practical steps you can take to begin to strengthen your friendships this week?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Imagine you're coming to the close of your life. What kind of memories do you want to have with your friends? What kind of comments do you want said by your friends at your funeral? What kind of pictures? Take some time to write down your answers to those questions. How will this affect the way you look for friends and the time that you spend with the friends you have?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm. Proverbs 13:20