

HOW TO FORGE MEANINGFUL FRIENDSHIPS

Friendology

Friendology

Week five - "Plan for Inflation"

1 Kings 17-19

Bottom line: True friendship will cost you to have and to keep, but it's a price infinitely worth paying.

1. What are some of the things you pay for that cost more than you would like them to cost? Why do you pay for them anyway?
2. Have you ever lost a friend at a time when you really needed them? What happened?
3. Have you ever walked away from a friendship because it got too difficult or too demanding? What might have happened if you had stuck around?
4. In this message, we talked about the relationship between Elijah and Elisha.
 - a. Do you see yourself right now more as the Elijah (who needs help) or the Elisha (who needs to help)?
 - b. Why are both of those roles challenging?
 - c. Why are both of those roles necessary?
5. Another friendship we hear a lot more about in scripture is the friendship between David and Jonathan. Read 1 Samuel 18:1-4.
 - a. This friendship was established with a formal covenant, and the Hebrew word used for this covenant was *hesed*, which means steadfast love. (If your group has time, look up more of the story in 1 and 2 Samuel about Jonathan and David's friendship.) David and Jonathan's friendship would outlast Saul's life, and even Jonathan's life since David took in Jonathan's son after his death in battle. Why are *steadfast* friendships (ones that last through time and circumstance) so precious?
 - b. Do you have any friendships similar to the one David and Jonathan had? If so, how have they shaped your life? If not, what difference might that kind of friendship make to your life?
6. How has this series challenged your ideas about friendship? Are there ways you plan to pursue friendship differently?