

**FRIEND REQUEST**  
“Laying the Foundation”  
September 13, 2015

- Show me your **friends**, and I’ll show you your **future**.

“Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.”  
Proverbs 13:20 (NLT)

“The godly give good advice to their friends; the wicked lead them astray.”  
Proverbs 12:26 (NLT)

“An open rebuke is better than hidden love! Wounds from a sincere friend are better than many kisses from an enemy.”  
Proverbs 27:5-6 (NLT)

“Don’t befriend angry people or associate with hot-tempered people, or you will learn to be like them and endanger your soul.”  
Proverbs 22:24–25 (NLT)

**List Your Closest Friends**

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1) _____ | 4) _____ |
| 2) _____ | 5) _____ |
| 3) _____ | 6) _____ |

**Friendship Defined**

“A friend is someone you may or may not know well who accepts your friend request on Facebook/Instagram/Twitter/Snapchat/Vine. This person is born to like and comment on your posts to make you feel good about yourself.”  
Proverbs 17:17 (SMV)

“A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.”  
Proverbs 17:17 (NLT)

**Why Are Friendships Declining?**

- 1) Increasing **work** hours.
- 2) Rising **divorce** rates.
- 3) Explosion of **social media**.

## Rediscovering The Lost Art Of Friendship

- **Be present.**

*“Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. 25 And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.”*

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NLT)

- **Get open.**

*“Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed...”*

James 5:16 (NLT)

**Every friendship ends up somewhere. Few friendships end up somewhere on purpose.**

### Leadership Tip

Always look for ways to connect the four values of a Life Group when we are going through various topics. For example this week there is a chance to talk about Finding Time to Play as friends in a Life Group as well as Engaging Authentically with each other. Capitalize on these and reinforce why these values create the DNA of our Life Groups at Coastal.

## Friend Request

### STARTER QUESTIONS:

**How has social media impacted your friendships for better or for worse?**

### MAIN IDEA:

This week we begin a new series talking about our friendships. The relationships in our lives matter greatly to us and they also matter greatly to God. The Bible has quite a bit to say about the kinds of people we associate with and how we treat one another. Coastal's Student Ministry, Pastor James, kicks off the series this week and begins by laying a foundation for what Scripture says and why this is so important to study.

James said, "*Show me your friends and I'll show you your future.*" **How have you experienced this truth in your life?**

Proverbs 13:20

*Walk with the wise and become wise,  
for a companion of fools suffers harm.*

**Do you have the right friends? Do you feel you are getting adequate time with those friends?**

Proverbs 17:17

*A friend loves at all times,  
and a brother is born for a time of adversity.*

With the variety of "friendships" out there in this world, it is critical we understand what the Bible has to say about them. As we get into this series, we will see examples of friendships with each other, pursuing life together as a church community, and the greatest friendship we will ever have with God, Himself. The kinds of people we surround ourselves with and how we act in this friendships matter to God. The truth is, we often forget God plays a role in our earthly friendships.

**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?**

Hebrews 10:24-25

*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another —and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

James asked you to list your six closest friends during the message. **Of those six friends, which one would you classify as your closest friend? How has their friendship benefited your life?**

*Engaging Authentically* is a core value for all the Life Groups at Coastal. This series speaks specifically about this value and why it so important. As we become friends and fully engage in each other's lives, we begin to open up and be ourselves. A Life Group should always be a safe place to be yourself and genuinely express what you are feeling and going through in an appropriate way.

**What are some of the things that keep you from having truly authentic friendships?**

If you were to be truly authentic with the people in this Life Group, it could drastically change the way you handle whatever you are going through. There is a time and a place for levels of honesty, but use sound judgment and begin to trust that God has placed these people in your life for a reason.

James 5:16

*Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.*

**What weaknesses do you struggle with most?  
How could we as your Life Group and your friends help you in dealing with these weaknesses?**

If your Life Group is coed and there are topics best discussed in other circles, please respect your group and find a way to connect with the right people at a different time. Friendships are vital, but discretion is important too as we *Engage Authentically* with each other.

**NEXT STEPS:**

James concludes his message on Sunday with a great quote worth remembering:

*“Every friendship ends up somewhere. Few friendships end up somewhere on purpose.”*

As we spend some time reflecting on our friendships and how the Bible defines friendships, there are numerous things we should work on and continue to process. The goal each week is for us to grow closer to God and closer to each other. Scripture is not silent about our relationships and it is important to keep this conversation going even when we aren't in this series or Life Group discussion.

Before you leave, let's implement some accountability from this message so we can continue to engage authentically-

**What's one thing you can do this week that will help you be more present or more transparent with your friends?**

## **FAMILY FOCUS:**

### FRIENDS RUB OFF

By coloring in with pencil large letters that spell FRIENDS, you will show how friends, whether they are good or bad, can easily rub off on you.

### MATERIALS:

Worksheet

No.2 black pencil for each child

Handy wipes for clean-up

friends sign

### PREPARATION

Before class, print out enough copies of the worksheet so you can give each child a slip of paper with the word FRIENDS to color in when instructed.

### WHAT YOU WILL DO:

During class, give each child one slip of paper with the word FRIENDS on it and a pencil. Tell them to use the pencil to color in all the letters completely and very dark. This may take a few minutes. After they are finished, you will have them rub their fingers over the letters to see that the graphite from the word friends has rubbed off on them.

### WHAT YOU WILL SAY:

The friends you choose in life can have a big impact on the way you act. Friends influence what type of clothes you wear, the type of music you listen to, what you believe about God, the way you treat others and the list continues. In other words, friends can rub off on you. As Christians, we need to be careful about who our friends are. Now that you are finished coloring in the letters, rub your fingers over the letters. Now look at your fingers. Just like that, friends can easily rub off on you.

FRIENDS

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