



CHURCH
OF THE PINES

First of All

January 25th, 2026

Week 3: Friends

Acts 20:36 - 21:8 When Paul had finished speaking, he knelt down with all of them and prayed. They all wept as they embraced him and kissed him. What grieved them most was his statement that they would never see his face again. Then they accompanied him to the ship. After we had torn ourselves away from them, we put out to sea and sailed straight to Kos. The next day we went to Rhodes and from there to Patara. We found a ship crossing over to Phoenicia, went on board and set sail. After sighting Cyprus and passing to the south of it, we sailed on to Syria. We landed at Tyre, where our ship was to unload its cargo. We sought out the disciples there and stayed with them seven days. Through the Spirit they urged Paul not to go on to Jerusalem. When it was time to leave, we left and continued on our way. All of them, including wives and children, accompanied us out of the city, and there on the beach we knelt to pray. After saying goodbye to each other, we went aboard the ship, and they returned home. We continued our voyage from Tyre and landed at Ptolemais, where we greeted the brothers and sisters and stayed with them for a day. Leaving the next day, we reached Caesarea and stayed at the house of Philip the evangelist, one of the Seven.

1. Spiritual friendships are _____ .

• *Needing friendships is a sign of spiritual _____ .*

Genesis 2:18 The LORD God said, "*It is not good for the man to be alone...*"

2. Spiritual friendships are _____ .

Acts 20:36 When Paul had finished speaking, he *knelt down with all of them and prayed*.

Ephesians 4:3 (ESV) eager to *maintain* the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace

3. Spiritual friendships are _____ .

✓ Through shared _____.

Acts 2:46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They *broke bread in their homes and ate together* with glad and sincere hearts...

✓ Through shared _____ .

Hebrews 3:13 (ESV) But *exhort one another every day*, as long as it is called "to-day," *that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.*

"Accountability is not consequences; it's ownership."

✓ Through shared _____ .

Acts 21:4 We sought out the disciples there and stayed with them seven days. *Through the Spirit* they urged Paul not to go on to Jerusalem

Acts 21:12-14 When we heard this, we and the people there pleaded with Paul not to go up to Jerusalem. Then Paul answered, "Why are you weeping and breaking my heart? I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." When he would not be dissuaded, we gave up and said, "*The Lord's will be done.*"

✓ Through shared _____ .

4. Spiritual friendships are _____ .

✓ Our creation is the _____ of friendship, and our _____ is eternal friendship.

"Give my kindest love to my dear wife, and tell her that the uncommon union which has so long subsisted between us has been of such a nature as I trust *is spiritual and therefore will continue forever...*" - Jonathan Edwards