



Community Life

Living as a community intentionally focused on cultivating the life of Christ in others.

GROUP GUIDE

WEEK 4 – FINDING JOY *Through Christian Friendship*

ARRIVAL/CONNECTING and SNACK: (15 Minutes) Spend time catching up and socializing with one another. Follow up on prayer requests and any action steps from your last time together.

SHORT OPENING PRAYER FOR YOUR TIME TOGETHER: (2 minutes)

SCRIPTURE and DISCUSSION: (40-50 minutes)

Big Idea: Don't miss the joy of having real Christian friendships

SCRIPTURE: **John 15:13** *"Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends."*

- How does this verse show us the depth of Christian friendship?

Proverbs 13:20 *"Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm."*

- Why is it important for us to have Christian friends who are full of God's wisdom?

Hebrews 10:24-25 *"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 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."*

- What are some specific ways that Christian friends encourage us according to Hebrews 10:24-25?
- Describe how has a Christian friend encouraged you to follow Jesus?

REFLECTION:

Proverbs 17:17 *"A friend loves at all times and a brother is born for a time of adversity."*

- Give a personal example of how Christian friend stuck by your side during a difficult period in your life.

Colossians 3:13 *"Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."*

- What is our motivation to forgive those who have hurt us?

Ephesians 4:15 *"Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ."*

- What does it look like to tell a friend the truth but not do it in love?
- How have you benefited from a Christian friend speaking the truth in love to you?

SURRENDER: (15 minutes)

- How are you surrounding yourself with Christian friendships?
- How can you be a strong Christian influence to others?

PRAYER: (10 minutes) Pray for one another in light of what was shared. Pray also that each of you would experience growing real joy as you worship Jesus daily.