



**DEEPENING**  
**RELATIONSHIPS**

Proverbs 18:24

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# OUR VISION:

To raise up anointed disciple-makers who are empowered to change their world for Christ.

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# 2023 - OUR YEAR OF GREAT GRACE

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# Acts 4:33 (ESV)

And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.

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# INTRODUCTION

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# Luke 2:52 (NIV)

52 And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

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# Proverbs 18:24 (NIV)

24 One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

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**YOUR FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD**

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# James 2:23 (NIV)

23 And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” and he was called God’s friend.

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# 2 Chronicles 20:7 (NIV)

7 Our God, did you not drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend?

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# Isaiah 41:8 (NIV)

8 “But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, you descendants of Abraham my friend,

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# Exodus 33:11 (NIV)

11 The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend.

Then Moses would return to the camp, but his young aide Joshua son of Nun did not leave the tent.

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# Exodus 33:15 (NIV)

15 Then Moses said to him, “**If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here.**”

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# HOW DO YOU DEEPEN YOUR FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD

- A. GOD'S PRESENCE:** Be always conscious of God's presence.
- B. THE WORD:** Spend quality time in studying the word.
- C. PRAYERS:** Go deeper in prayers.
- D. FELLOWSHIP:** Deepen friendship with other God-fearing believers
- E. RADICAL OBEDIENCE:** Say yes to God in advance.

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# DEEPEN

YOUR FRIENDSHIP  
WITH YOUR SPOUSE

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**YOUR SPOUSE  
SHOULD BE  
YOUR BEST FRIEND**

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# Song of Solomon 5:16 (NIV)

16 His mouth is sweetness itself; he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, this is my friend, daughters of Jerusalem

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# Genesis 2:23 (NIV)

23 The man said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man.”

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# Genesis 2:24

“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife, and they will become one flesh.”

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# Genesis 2:25

“And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.”

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# Benefits of being best friends in marriage

- *Security that the marriage is okay.*
- *Strength to face the storms of life.*
- *The peace of knowing our marriage will last.*
- *The comfort of personal stability.*
- *An antidote to loneliness and aloneness.*
- *Stability and security for our kids.*

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# 11 Steps to Deepen Your Friendship in Marriage:

1. Choose to make your marriage the **FIRST** priority in your life.
2. **ENCOURAGE** your spouse and **EXPRESS** your love daily.
3. Maintain a regular **\*DATE** night or outing. (*\*Time together without other people*)
4. **GET AWAY** together overnight - without the kids - at least twice a year.
5. Don't make major financial or vocational decisions until you **BOTH** agree.
6. Maintain safe relational **BOUNDARIES** with the opposite sex.

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# 11 Steps to Deepen Your Friendship in Marriage:

7. Resolve **CONFLICTS** honestly and respectfully; sooner than later.
8. **LAUGH** at all times and **CRACK JOKES** together.
9. Don't take life too seriously but **RELAX** and **ENJOY** each other.
10. **COMMUNICATE** constantly.
11. **REFUSE** to entertain the idea of divorce.

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# DEEPEN YOUR FRIENDSHIP WITH YOUR MATES

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# Proverbs 12:26 (NIV)

26 The righteous choose their friends carefully, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.

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# 1 Samuel 20:42 (NIV)

42 Jonathan said to David, “Go in peace, for we have sworn friendship with each other in the name of the Lord, saying, ‘The Lord is witness between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants forever.’” Then David left, and Jonathan went back to the town.

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# 2 Samuel 1:26 (NIV)

26 I grieve for you, Jonathan my brother; you were very dear to me. Your love for me was wonderful, more wonderful than that of women.

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# HOW TO DEEPEN YOUR FRIENDSHIP WITH PEOPLE

- Spend more time together.
- Open up and become more vulnerable gradually.
- Encourage each other and at the same time correct each other in love.
- Sacrificially support each other at points of need.
- Pray together and hold each other accountable.

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# Proverbs 18:24 (NIV)

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**Deep friendships can  
be trans-generational.**

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# 2 Samuel 9:1 (NIV)

1 David asked, “Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan’s sake?”

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# CONCLUSION

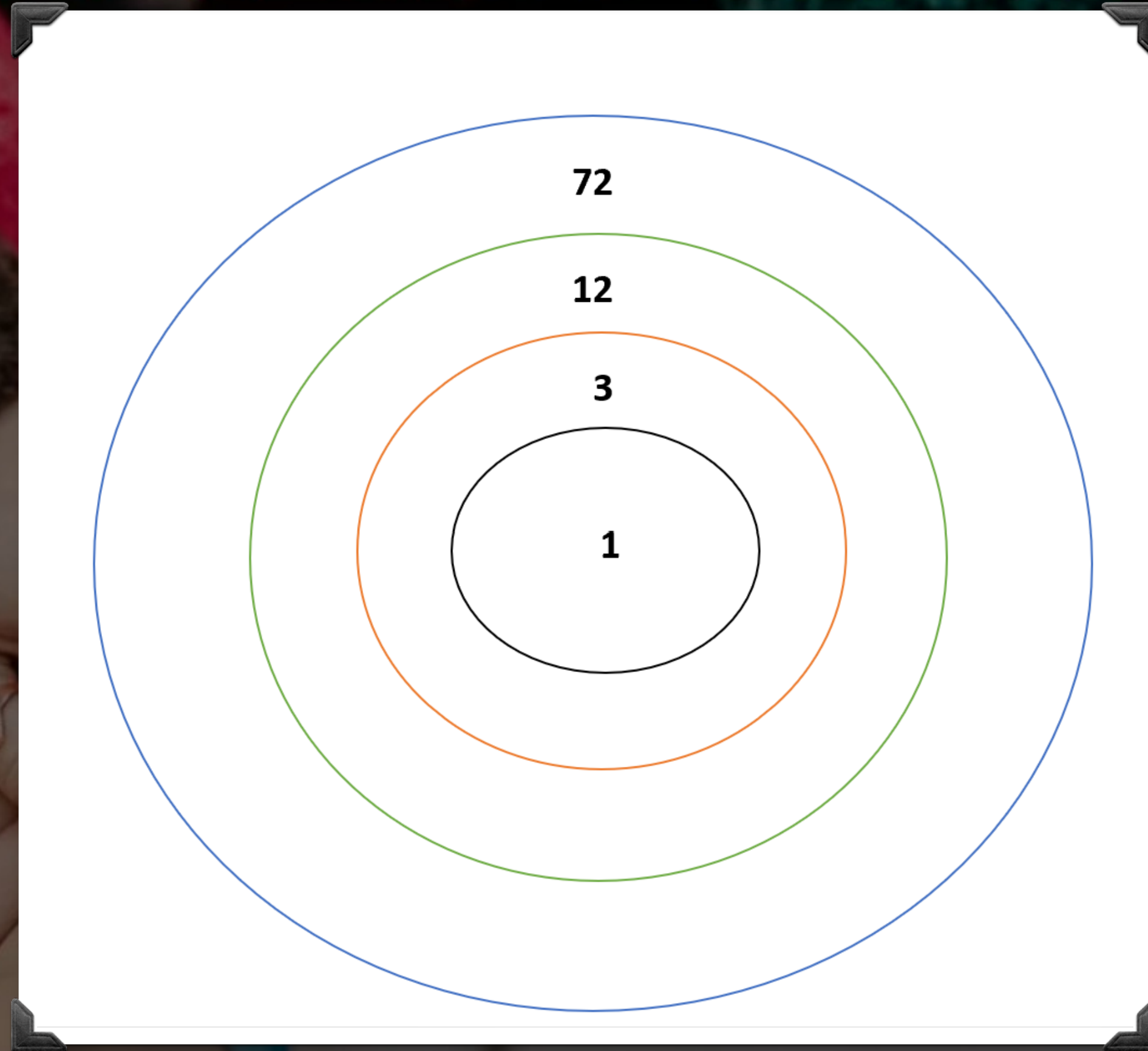
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# 72-12-3-1 circles of friendship



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