



DEVELOPING DEEPER FRIENDSHIPS

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Philippians 1:3-11

Deep friendships rest on a spiritual foundation (v 2, 7 & 8)

What you can do:

- ❖ You build friendships by extending grace to others – favor friends don't deserve.

- ❖ You build friendships by making peace with others – overlooking mistakes friends make.

- ❖ You build friendships by showing affection for others – doing what communicates love.

Deep friendships emerge from shared experiences (v 5 & 7)

What you can do:

- ❖ You strengthen friendships by sharing the gospel together.

- ❖ You strengthen friendships by sharing difficult circumstances together.

Deep friendships grow through sustained prayer (v 3, 9-11)

What you can do:

- ❖ You deepen friendships by praying together.

- ❖ You build friendships by worshipping together.

Next Steps

- I will extend grace & do what communicates love to a friend this week.
- I will pray with a friend this week.
- I will memorize Philippians 1:6 this week.



Lesson Aim: To grow in understanding God's vision for intimate friendships.

Ice-breaker: Who was your best friend growing up? Share one thing you enjoyed doing together.

Open in prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to guide your time together.

1. **Read Philippians 1:3-8.** What do you appreciate about Paul's attitude as he prays for the Philippians?
2. How can you apply this to your own attitude as you pray for others?
3. **Read Philippians 1:9-11.** What stands out to you about the specific things Paul prays for the Philippians?
4. Stop right now and take a moment and pray for some of these things for each other in your LifeGroup.
5. Jeff Iorg shared three key characteristics for intimate relationships this weekend: a spiritual foundation, a shared purpose and sustained prayer. As you reflect on your relationships, in which area do you want to grow in the most? Why?
6. **Read Proverbs 17:17.** When is it easy to love our friends? When is it difficult?

7. Describe a friendship you have in which you have faced adversity but it has grown stronger as a result.
8. **Read Proverbs 27:17.** How can we "sharpen" each other "like iron" in our friendships? Describe a way in which this has happened in your life.
9. As you think about this idea of helping each other grow spiritually through stronger and deeper friendships, does it make you feel good, or cause a little fear? Why?

Daily Devotional Plan – Scriptures on Friendships.

Day 1 – John 15:12-15

Day 2 – Proverbs 13:20

Day 3 – Proverbs 22:24-25

Day 4 – Luke 6:31

Day 5 – Colossians 3:12-14

Day 6 – Ruth 1:16-17

Day 7 – 1 Samuel 18:1-3

To go deeper: Answer the following questions on a separate piece of paper/journal/laptop/etc.:

- What did you hear? (What did God say to you as you read the Scriptures for the day?)
- What do you think? (What does it mean to you, how does it apply to your life, and what difference will it make to you?)
- What will you do? (What action step will you take? How will you think differently? How will you live differently?)
- Now talk to God (Put your thoughts into prayer. It could be a prayer of gratitude or praise. It could be a prayer of confession or a request for God's help. It's up to you. But take a minute each day to write a prayer response to what you read in the Scriptures.)