



FEBRUARY 16, 2025  
THE GROUP TEXT  
Discussion Guide

### SERMON SUMMARY

Friends influence our future. The quality of our relationships is more important than the quantity. Berchman Paul, Richmond Worship Director, describes four types of good friends we need and how to find those good friends. Do a relationship reset, if needed, to improve your life in the future.

### SCRIPTURES USED IN THE MESSAGE

- Proverbs 13:20 (ESV)
- Mark 2:1-5 (ESV)
- Numbers 14:6-9
- 1 Samuel 18:1-3 (ESV)
- 2 Timothy 1:3-7 (ESV)
- Ruth 1:16-17 (ESV)
- Proverbs 18:24

### TALK IT OVER

Choose questions that keep the discussion moving. No need to discuss every question.

- What does friendship mean to you?
- What is the difference between an acquaintance and a friend?
- How can friends influence us positively? Negatively?
- What are some characteristics and behaviors of a good friend?

### Stands in Faith with You

- Read Numbers 14:1-9. Caleb stood in faith beside Joshua. What was the significance of Caleb and Joshua standing in faith together? What risks were they taking in doing this?
- Describe a time when you needed a friend to stand by you in faith. What happened?
- How can we identify and build a relationship with those who share our faith and those who will stand with us in faith?

### Loves You Like Their Own Soul

- Read 1 Samuel 18:1-3. Describe Jonathan's love for David.
- Do the people in your circle make you feel loved for who you are and not for what you can do for them?

### Strengthens Your Faith

- Read 2 Tim 1:3-7. How does Paul's relationship with Timothy strengthen his faith?
- Do you have a friend who sees your potential and seeks your growth in faith?
- Are your friendships helping to be more like Jesus?

### Stays Through Every Season

- Read Ruth 1:6-18. Why would Ruth staying with Naomi potentially result in hard times? What does this say about Ruth's relationship with Naomi?
- Do you have a friend who stays with you during the worst times and the best times?
- If you have been hurt in the past in friendships, how can you open yourself up to receive the love of a friend again?
- How has your small group carried you in the past?
- Do you try to be a lone wolf and live isolated? If so, what is one thing you could do this year to get more involved and build a healthy friend circle around you? (Men's Night, March 7)
- How do we find good friends? 1) Pray, 2) Small group, and 3) Be a friend
- What does it take to be a good friend to others?

## APPLICATION IDEAS

- List your top 5 relationships. Evaluate each based on whether they:
  - Stand in faith with you
  - Love you like their own soul
  - Strengthen your faith
  - Stay through every season
- What is the next step you will take if a relationship reset is needed
- In what way(s) do you need to change to be a good friend?

## GO DEEPER

Additional ideas for a deeper study of the sermon topic.

- Read Mark 2:1-12
- Which character do you relate to the most in the story of the paralyzed man? Why?
- In what ways have you felt paralyzed over the course of your life? What happened?
- Who are your friends that will carry you when you are paralyzed? What will your next steps be if you lack friends who will carry you when needed?

## PRAYER FOCUS

At Lifepoint, we pray until something happens. Make time in every group meeting to pray for one another and the larger matters of concern to your group.

- Pray that God will provide each person wisdom regarding their current friendships and strength if a relationship reset is needed.

## LEADER TIPS

- Consider sending out your icebreaker question to your members before the meeting. This gives them more time to think about a response before the question is asked.