



Guardrails Week 4

Friendship in Proverbs

Proximity - Proverbs 13:20

Consistency - Proverbs 17:17

Honesty - Proverbs 27:6

CONNECT

1. If you could pick a TV show or movie to represent your ideal 'friend circle' what would it be? (Silly answers accepted 😊.)
2. Peoples friend circles tend to change over time for many different reasons. Describe a time your friend circle changed and why. (Examples: a job change, a move, a life change, etc.) How did you feel during this time?

READ TOGETHER

The following verses discuss various aspects of friendship in the book of Proverbs. Take some time as a group to read the passages.

- **Prov. 13:20** *He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.*
- **Prov. 16:28** *A perverse man spreads strife, and a slanderer separates intimate friends.*
- **Prov. 17:9** *He who conceals a transgression seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates intimate friends.*
- **Prov. 17:17** *A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.*
- **Prov. 18:24** *A man of too many friends comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.*
- **Prov. 20:6** *Many a man proclaims his own loyalty, but who can find a trustworthy man?*
- **Prov. 27:6** *Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but deceitful are the kisses of an enemy.*
- **Prov. 27:9** *Oil and perfume make the heart glad, so a man's counsel is sweet to his friend.*
- **Prov. 27:17** *Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.*
- **Prov. 22:24-25** *Do not associate with a man given to anger; or go with a hot-tempered man, 25 Or you will learn his ways and find a snare for yourself.*

DISCUSS TOGETHER

1. What Proverb stuck out to you and why? What challenged you from this week's message?
2. How much do you think the people you spend time with influence you?
3. Ben used the phrase 'Your Circle Has You Surrounded.' What are your thoughts about this statement?
 - Share a time your circle of friends supported you.
 - Share a time your circle of friends held you down.
 - What can you learn from these situations?
4. What do you think of your current circle of influence?
 - Who is in it? (Include those who you spend the most time with: co-workers, after work, kids, Netflix!)
 - Is your circle too small? Too big?
5. 'Consistent Takes Commitment.' The biggest competitors of our friends are the other commitments we make (work, hobbies, afterschool, digital entertainment, 'me time').
 - What's the biggest competitor to your friendships?
6. "A man of too many friends comes to ruin..." Prov. 18:24. Have you ever thought of too many friends as a bad thing? What are the dangers of too many friends?
7. 'Honesty In Order.' Is lying or deceit a problem in our culture? What are some examples of common lies? Why is it so hard to be honest?
8. What is damaged by dishonesty?

NEXT

Based on what we've looked at this week

1. How can you reprioritize a friendship you've been neglecting? What can you do together? Schedule it!

2. How can you minimize contact with an acquaintance that's a bad influence on you?
3. How are you with being honest with yourself? Is there someone you haven't been honest with that you need to come clean with?

CONNECT

Take some time to CONNECT together and PRAY for one another

- Are there any areas of your life that we can celebrate?
- Are there any areas of your life where we can help?
- Are there any areas of your life that we can be praying about?

FURTHER READING

Question: "What is true friendship according to the Bible?"

Answer: The Lord Jesus Christ gave us the definition of a true friend: "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you" ([John 15:13-15](#)). Jesus is the pure example of a true friend, for He laid down His life for His "friends." What is more, anyone may become His friend by trusting in Him as his personal savior, being born again and receiving new life in Him.

There is an example of true friendship between David and Saul's son Jonathan, who, in spite of his father Saul's pursuit of David and attempts to kill him, stood by his friend. You will find that story in 1 Samuel chapter 18 through chapter 20. Some pertinent passages are [1 Samuel 18:1-4](#); [19: 4-7](#); [20:11-17](#), [41-42](#).

The principle of friendship is also found in Amos. "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" ([Amos 3:3 KJV](#)). Friends are of like mind. The truth that comes from all of this is a friendship is a relationship that is entered into by individuals, and it is only as good or as close as those individuals choose to make it. Someone has said that if you can count your true friends on the fingers of one hand, you are blessed. A friend is one whom you can be yourself with and never fear that he or she will judge you. A friend is someone that you can confide in with complete trust. A friend is someone you respect and that respects you, not based upon worthiness but based upon a likeness of mind.

Read full article @ <https://www.gotquestions.org/true-friendship.html>

Also check out <https://www.gotquestions.org/Bible-friends.html> for more examples of bible character friendships in the bible.