



BEREAN
SMALL GROUPS

FOR THE GOSPEL
ROMANS 1:16

Thrive: The Role of Friendship

John 17:22-26

Read John 17:22-26 Together:

The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. ²⁴ Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵ O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.

Studying the Text:

- ? How does seeing friendship within the Trinity inform how we see friendship in our lives as God's people?
- ? Read 1 John 4:21. How does friendship with God shape our friendship with others? Why is friendship with God the starting point for true fellowship with one another?
- ? Read Proverbs 13:20. How have you seen friends influence your life? What makes a friend's influence so impactful?

Foundations of Friendship: There is Friendship in the Trinity, and God Created Us for Friendship.

- ? Pastor Deven said we didn't invent friendship; God created us for friendship. Why do you think God created us for friendship?
- ? Think about how God desires friendship with you. How does it feel to know that he desires true friendship with you?
- ? Pastor Deven said true friendship requires loving and knowing one another. Why does knowing one another bring true friendship rather than just the image the other presents?

Marks of a Gospel Friend: Commit and Invest in Others, Encourage Others as They Pursue Christ, and Walk with Friends in the Good Times and in the Hard Times.

- ? Talk about a friend whose commitment and investment in you impacted you. What was impactful about their friendship? How can you be that type of friend to someone else?
- ? What does encouraging a friend in their walk with Christ look like? How can we encourage one another as we run the race of faith together?
- ? Read Romans 12:15. How does a friend's presence in good times and hard times show the depth of the friendship?

Be Careful with Your Friendship Choices and Cultivate Your Friendship with Jesus.

- ? Think about influences in your life that negatively impact you. How can you be on guard against influences that harm your faith? How can you be a good influence for God to your friends who don't know him?
- ? Read Colossians 1:20 and Romans 5:8. How does having Jesus as a friend give you true hope and peace?