



Let's Talk About... - Week 1 Friendship

Why friendships are so important:

Spiritual growth

Romans 1:11-12 (NIV)

I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong- ¹² that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith.

James 5:16 (NIV)

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

Proverbs 13:20 (NIV)

Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.

- Friends will determine the quality and direction of your life.
- We don't make friends as much as our friends make us.

Emotional support

Galatians 6:2 (NIV)

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

1 Samuel 17:57-58 (NIV)

As soon as David returned from killing the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul, with David still holding the Philistine's head. ⁵⁸ "Whose son are you, young man?" Saul asked him. David said, "I am the son of your servant Jesse of Bethlehem."

1 Samuel 18:1-4 (NIV)

After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself. ² From that day Saul kept David with him and did not let him return home to his family. ³ And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. ⁴ Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his tunic, and even his sword, his bow and his belt.

Understanding Biblical Friendship:

Biblical friendship is different.

- Biblical friendship is focused on God's kingdom.

Biblical friendship is covenantal, not consumer-driven.

Proverbs 17:17 (NIV)

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.

Biblical friendship takes sacrifice.

- Biblical friendships put the needs of the friend ahead of their own.
- Biblical friendships make the hard times easier and the easy times better.

Biblical friendship takes intentionality.

- Biblical friendship takes speaking truth.

Proverbs 27:5-6 (NIV)

Better is open rebuke than hidden love. ⁶ Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.

- A friend will not let you stay in a harmful attitude or behavior.

Biblical friendship takes forgiveness.

Proverbs 17:9a. (NIV)

Whoever would foster love covers over an offense...

Ephesians 4:32 (NIV)

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Rebuilding friendships will take an investment of
time, trust, truth and transparency,
but the result will be transformation.

3 Golden Rules of Friendship:

1. Invest the time
2. Earn their trust
 - by being reliable
 - by being loyal
 - by keeping confidences
 - listening with empathy
3. Accept their flaws

John 15:12-15 (NIV)

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ 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.