



SHARE: The sermon highlighted that despite living in an era of unlimited digital connection through social media, many Americans struggle with growing isolation and a lack of close friends. Reflect on your current friendships: how has your investment in real-life, face-to-face community shifted over the years, and in what areas do you feel most vulnerable to loneliness? Consider sharing one practical step you can take this week to prioritize deeper personal connection over superficial online interaction.

READ: Ecclesiastes 4:9–12, the sermon outlines how friendships empower, pick us up, preserve us, protect us, and strengthen us. Which of these five benefits do you feel you need the most in your life right now, and how has a friend previously helped you weather a difficult season? Discuss how recognizing these biblical benefits can motivate us to invest more intentionally in the community God designed for us.

READ: Proverbs 13:20. reminds us to walk with the wise because companions shape our character and trajectory. How do you evaluate the primary influences in your life right now, and what criteria do you use when choosing close friends? Discuss how C.S. Lewis's observation that friendship must be "about something" applies to finding fellow travelers who encourage your faith.

READ: Proverbs 27:5–6 teaches that wounds from a trusted friend can be relied upon, and iron sharpens iron. How do you typically respond when a friend offers you honest correction or godly rebuke, and do you have someone in your life with whom you can practice vulnerable confession as described in James 5:16? Share an example of how honest, caring feedback has helped you grow spiritually.

READ: In Luke 5:17–20, four faithful friends went to extraordinary lengths, tearing off a roof to lower their paralyzed friend in front of Jesus. Who are the people in your life whose faith is strong enough to carry you to Jesus when you are hurting or weak, and for whom are you willing to 'tear the roof off'? Discuss how you can be that kind of steadfast, contending friend to someone in your small group or ministry.