

You've Got a Friend in Me – Wk. 2: Buzz

Sermon Overview

Buzz Lightyear begins *Toy Story* believing he can accomplish his mission alone. Like Buzz, we often convince ourselves that independence is strength. But Scripture paints a different picture. God created us to abide in Christ and to live in meaningful relationships with His people. Spiritual growth isn't a solo journey—it happens best in community as we love, encourage, and strengthen one another.



Icebreaker

Buzz believed he could handle everything by himself.

What's something you've tried to do on your own that would have been much easier with someone else's help?

Discussion Questions

1. God Created Us for Community

Read: Ecclesiastes 4:7–12

The writer of Ecclesiastes describes the emptiness of living life alone and the blessing of walking through life together.

- Why do you think our culture celebrates independence so much?
- Which benefit of friendship in this passage (help, encouragement, protection, strength) stands out to you most right now?
- Have you ever experienced a season when someone "helped you back up" spiritually?

2. Friendship Begins by Abiding in Jesus

Read: John 15:1–15

Jesus teaches that friendship with others begins by remaining connected to Him.

- What does it practically mean to "abide" or "remain" in Christ?
- How does abiding in Jesus naturally produce love for other people?
- Which part of the progression stood out most to you?

Abide in Christ → Receive His Love → Love Others → Live as His Friends

3. The Church Is God's Design for Spiritual Growth

Read: Romans 12:3–16

Paul describes what a community of Christ-followers should look like.

- Which command in this passage is easiest for you? Which is the hardest?
- Why is humility essential for healthy friendships?
- What does it mean that "each member belongs to all the others" (v. 5)?

Digging Deeper

Buzz's biggest problem wasn't that he couldn't fly—it was believing he didn't need anyone else.

Discuss these statements:

- "Pride says, *I've got this*. Wisdom says, *We've got this*."
- "Spiritual growth happens best in community."
- "Abiding in God is the root. Love for others is the fruit. Friendship is the relationship that grows between them."

Which statement challenged you the most? Why?

Take It Home

This week, prayerfully identify **one relationship** God is asking you to intentionally invest in.

Maybe that means:

- Calling someone you've been meaning to reconnect with.
- Inviting someone to coffee or lunch.
- Joining or recommitting to a WITH Group.
- Encouraging someone who is struggling.
- Taking the first step toward reconciliation.

Remember:

The Christian life was never designed to be lived alone. As we abide in Christ, His love grows in us, flows through us, and builds the kind of community He designed us to experience.

If you see this... text Pastor Marc the following phrase for a fun surprise. “Toy Story 5-er”