

Friendship Study



God's Word and Friendship

Introduction

Friendships are glorious, rewarding and hard. God created man for fellowship and created us for relationship. Why then is friendship often difficult?

The intention of this study is to study friendships according to God's word. You will need your bible as we are going to look up lots of scripture.

If you desire deeper study, look up the scriptures at home and write down your thoughts. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you and make the scriptures come alive. God wants relationship with you and he will bless your relationship with others. I pray you will come out of this study with a deeper understanding of God's great love for you and know that he will bless your other relationships as well.

In friendship, Suzanne

Week One – Our desire and need for friendship

What in our society builds relationships or tears them down?

Genesis 2:18 – 25 - We look at this as a marriage scripture but how might it apply to friendship.

How often do you find yourself lonely? What do you do about it?

Ecclesiastes 4:9 – 10 - Have you ever been in this situation? The positive or the difficult side?

Romans 12:17 – 18 - How do we walk this out in friendship?

Ephesians 4:15 – 16 - Have you ever been the recipient of this kind of situation? How did “truth in love” affect the outcome?

Romans 1:7 – 12 - Who was Paul writing to? What do you think their relationship was?_

What did Paul say he wanted to give them?

What did Paul say he wanted to receive from them?

John 13:34 – 35 - What does this say about friendships today?

What would you like to ask God for in the area of friendships? Do you believe He can answer that request?

Week 2 – Building Friendships

Think about your oldest friend. How did you meet them? What has caused your friendship to last?

How about your newest friend, what drew you to that person?

Do you find it easy or difficult to make new friends? Why?

1 Samuel 18:1 – 4 - The “he and him” at the beginning of the verse refers to David. What happened between David and Jonathan?

1 Samuel 19:1 – 7 - How was their friendship tested?

How did the friendship between Jonathan and David impact David’s future?

Proverbs 27:17 - How does iron sharpen iron, what is the allegory?

Do you have friends that are “iron” to you? How does that work in your life?

Proverbs 27:5 – 6 - What does the bible mean by “wounds of a friend” and “kisses of an enemy”?

Colossians 3:12 – 14. What does this scripture say about our part in a relationship?

Which quality speaks to you the most? Why?

John 15:12 – 15 - How did Jesus show his friendship?

What are real ways we lay down our lives for our friends, or they do for us?

Week 3: Weathering Friendship

Often friendships go through difficult times. When has a relationship been hard for you? Did the friendship recover or was it lost?

We're going to look at the friendship of Jesus and Peter.

Matthew 16:13-20 - How well do you think Jesus and Peter knew each other? Were they close?

Matthew 26:31-35 - What is happening in this portion of the story from Jesus' point of view? From Peter's? How would you feel if your friend told you they knew you would not stick by them in times of trouble?

Now read the next part of the story **Matthew 26:69-75**. How does Peter feel at this point? What do you think he learned about himself?

John 21:4-8 - This is after Jesus' resurrection and at first they don't recognize who is on the beach. What does Peter do when he realizes who it is?

John 21:15-17- In light of everything we've read, how do you think Peter felt during this conversation?

What are your thoughts on this friendship? Did these two men truly love each other? How do you think Jesus felt when Peter betrayed him? Did he continue to love him?

We see that Peter was fully restored to friendship with Jesus, now let's look at another friend – Judas.

Matthew 27:3-5 - How did Judas handle his betrayal?

Compare Peter and Judas, how were they alike and how were they different?

Both of these men made huge mistakes in their friendship with Jesus, yet both reacted very different. How does this relate to our friendships? What can you take away from this in your human relationships? What about your relationship with God?

Week 4: Making Peace in Friendship

Have you ever had an issue in a relationship that you couldn't seem to get past? Family or friend?

Did it get resolved?

Proverbs 14:30 – What is one benefit of peace, or tranquility depending on your translation?

Matthew 18:15-18 – What kind of conflict is being addressed? What conflicts would not fit into this category? Have you ever worked this out?

Romans 12:18 – What is the directive here? Think of a situation where it depends on you, how can you keep the peace? Now think of a situation where there was nothing you could do, what was the result?

Exodus 14:14 – This verse is right before God split the Red Sea. The Israelites were being pursued by Pharaoh and his army and they were terrified. At this particular moment, what did God say they should do? Do you think God directs us this same way today?

Ephesians 4:1-6 – How do we walk worthy of our calling? How might this affect relationships?

Ephesians 4:15-16 – This verse talks about building up the body of Christ. These are relationships that we minister with, serve God with, and often are our greatest friendships. What does it say about addressing issues in the body of Christ?

What qualities in the previous verses do we need to make peace in friendships?

Praise God we are not without hope! He is daily making us more like him. If this is an area of struggle for you then you can have hope that he is working in you and will give you what you need to find peace.

Week 5 – Mentoring Friendship

Mentor noun

1. a wise and trusted counselor or teacher.
2. an influential senior sponsor or supporter.

Have you had a mentor in your life? How have they affected you?

Why would God put mentors in our life?

God told Elijah that he would mentor Elisha. (1 Kings 19:16b, 19-21) They traveled and worked together as Elisha learned about Elijah's prophetic ministry.

2 Kings 2:1-6, 9-12 – What is Elisha's response to what Elijah asks of him? What was the result?

How do you think Elisha may have benefitted being mentored by Elijah?

Titus 2:3-5 – Describe the mentor in this passage. What is she teaching her young friends? How can we walk this out?

1 John 3:18 – How could this work in a mentoring friendship?

Colossians 3:16 – This verse talks about teaching and admonishing each other, how would we apply this in a practical way?

2 Timothy 2:22-26 – Who are we to flee and pursue with? What are traits God wants us to have?

Does this seem daunting if you are the mentor? What if you are the one being mentored?

Week 6 – The Value of Friendship

Think of a time that made better by a friend. What happened and how did the friend affect the situation?

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 – Who is the third strand? How does this work in real life?

Matthew 5:43-44 – Who does Jesus tell us to love? How could love affect those relationships?

John 13:34-35 – What does Jesus command? What will people know about us if we obey? What does our culture think about the church? How has that developed?

1 Corinthians 13:1-7, 13 – List the attributes of love. Which of these is easiest for you, which is hardest?

Think of someone in your life that truly showed one or more of the attributes listed in the above passage. How did they touch your life?

Choose one or more off the list and talk about how you can live it out in friendship. For example, love is kind. In a friendship, we are kind to each other. We choose to talk in a way that is not hurtful but loving and kind. It helps me so much when my friend treats me with kindness and is still real with me.

Do you see an area that God is growing you in the area of friendship?