



Sermon Discussion Questions

Sunday, March 4, 2012

Pastor Mitch White - Huntersville

Series: Live Well: God's Wisdom for Everyday Living

Sermon: Friendship

Passage: Various verses from Proverbs

Note to Group Leaders:

Pastor Mike Moses will be preaching at Huntersville and then Davidson on Marriage. Pastor Mitch White will be preaching in Davidson and then Huntersville on Friendship. These questions are for Pastor Mitch's sermon on Friendship. See the separate email for Pastor Mike's questions on Marriage. Both sermons come from various passages in the book of Proverbs.

Introduce it:

Share as a group who were your best friends growing up and why would you describe them as your best friends?

Revisit it: Learn the passage preached on.

Use it: don't just learn the passage but use it.

For this sermon, these 2 sections are combined. Below are the passages and questions that Pastor Mitch used during his sermon. As a group leader, simply choose the ones that best apply to your group to discuss.

Proverbs 13:20 "He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm."

Proverbs 18:24 "A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."

What are two goals of friendship that we learn from these passages?

A Good Friend is one that is Constant:

Proverbs 14:20; "The poor are shunned even by their neighbors, but the rich have many friends."

Proverbs 19:4,6; "Wealth brings but a poor man's friend deserts him. Many curry favor with a ruler, and everyone is the friend of a man who gives gifts."

Proverbs 17:17: A friend loves at all times and a brother is born for adversity.

Q's for "Who are my good friends?"

Those that call you friends, is your friendship reciprocal? Do they give to you? NOT, do they give the same amount to you, because they may not be able to. BUT, do they give at all to you? Do they give of themselves at all to you? Do they serve and care for you? Or do they just take?

Q's for "How good of a friend am I?"

Who are the people that you call your good friends? When is the last time you gave to them? The last time you initiated with them instead of waiting for them to initiate with you? Do you look for ways to love on them or just ways for them to love on you?

A Good friend is one that has Candor:

Proverbs 27:5-6: Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.

Proverbs 28:23 "He who rebukes a man will in the end gain more favor than he who has a flattering tongue."

Proverbs 29:5 "Whoever flatters his neighbor is spreading a net for his feet."

Titus 3:10 tells us, "Warn a divisive person once, and then warn him a second time. After this, have nothing to do with them. You may be sure that such a person is warped and sinful; they are self-condemned."

Q's for "Who are my good friends?"

Have they been willing to say hard things to you with an attitude that wants to see you grow and mature and be

healthy? Or are they just beating you down, gossiping about others, or just flattering you? Are there people that have said really hard things to you that you have shut off but you need to reconsider if they might be the only true friend you really have? Do you need to go to them today and ask forgiveness and thank them for being a true friend? Are there people you need to stay away from because they are devious?

Q's for "How good of a friend am I?"

Is there something you know you need to say to someone you call friend that you just can't say because you are afraid they might hate you? Do you hate conflict more than you love your friend? Are you willing to love them and have your friendship rocky if it means they might have a chance at getting healthier? Are you one that talks poorly about everyone to others but won't say those things to the person and offer forgiveness?

A good friend gives good counsel:

Proverbs 27:9 "Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of one's friend springs from his earnest counsel."

Proverbs 27:17 "as iron sharpens iron, so one sharpens another."

Q's for "Who are my good friends?"

Who are the people in your life that you see making good and wise decisions with their own life? Who are the people that you know are out for your best? Who are people in your life that don't wait for you to come to them for counsel but ask you hard questions about your life already?

Q's for "How good of a friend am I?"

Do you let anyone give you counsel? Do you go to a few people for counsel or do you keep going to people until you get the counsel you want? Can you give counsel and remove your own preferences from the situation? Can you recognize that you might not be the best person to give counsel and willing to say I'm not the best person?

A good friend knows how and when to comfort:

Proverbs 25:17 Seldom set foot in your neighbor's house-too much of you, and he will hate you.

Proverbs 27:14: If a man loudly blesses his neighbor early in the morning, it will be taken as a curse.

Proverbs 25:20 Like one who takes away a garment on a cold day, or like vinegar poured on soda, is one who sings songs to a heavy heart.

Proverbs 26:18-19 Like a madman shooting firebrands or deadly arrows is a man who deceives his neighbor and says, "I was only joking."

Q's for "Who are my good friends?"

Who do you NOT call when something tragic happens and why? Is it because you know they will just make a joke about it. Or they will just say, "Trust God he's gonna make this good. Cheer up."

Q's for "How good of a friend am I?"

How to be a good friend: Can you cry with and hurt with your friends? Can you give them permission to cry and hurt or are you the one that makes a joke or even says, 'toughen up'? Who comes to you for comfort? Anyone? How can you become a better place for people to come for counsel?

Proverbs 16:28 A perverse man stirs up dissension and a gossip separates close friends.

Proverbs 17:9 He who covers over an offense promotes love, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.

What do these last 2 proverbs teach us about key ways of protecting friendship? Are there ways you need to apply these 2 proverbs today?

Remember It: Memorize Proverbs 18:24 "A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."

TEACH THESE PROVERBS TO YOUR CHILDREN!!! As parents, we owe it to our children to help them learn what it means to have good friends and what it means to be a good friend.