

## **Community & Connection: Friendship**

### **What is a friend?**

- “The mark of true friendship is mutual aid, regard, and concern for the other. True friends come to your rescue, celebrate your success as if it was their own, and respect the ebb and flow of your life. They show trust, forgiveness, gratitude, honesty, commitment, support, enthusiasm, and gladness toward their friends without expectation of gain or return.” - Patty O’Grady, Ph.D. professor at the University of Tampa
- True community is to know and be known, love and be loved, serve and be served, celebrate and be celebrated. – Bill Hybels

### **Do you have a close friends?**

- 1 in 8 adults say they have no close friends.
- Acts 20:36-38

### **I don’t need any close friends...**

- God has wired you to need people - Genesis 2:19 2.
- God works and gives grace through others
  - 2 Corinthians 7:6 2 Corinthians 7:13 Colossians 4:11 3.
- You are not your strongest when you are alone - 1 Peter 5:8

## **How to choose Good friends**

### **Choose friends carefully**

- Proverbs 12:26 Proverbs 13:20 1 Corinthians 15:33

### **Beware of having an angry person as a close friend**

- Proverbs 22:24

### **Watch out for “friends” who are only in it for themselves.**

- Proverbs 19:4 Proverbs 19:6 James 1:19

### **Seek quality not quantity**

- Proverbs 18:24

### **Beware of the gossip**

- Proverbs 16:28 Proverbs 17:9

### **Beware of the one-upper**

- Romans 12:15

## **How to be a good friend**

### **Love your friends**

- Proverbs 22:11 Proverbs 3:3-4 Philippians 2:3-4
- Give love and receive love: Maturity is the ability to give and receive love

### **Be a helpful and encouraging friend**

- Proverbs 12:25 Proverbs 27:9

### **Be a faithful friend**

- Proverbs 20:6 Proverbs 25:19

### **Don’t be a smothering friend**

- Proverbs 25:16-17

### **Be a friend of Jesus**

## **How to make friends or deeper friendships**

### **Get around people**

#### **Invite**

#### **Learn to ask questions**

#### **Learn the art of listening**

#### **Don’t take it personally**

#### **Take emotional risks**

Courage – Courage to be imperfect

Compassion – Compassion on themselves and in turn had compassion on others.

Connection – Willing to let go of who they think they should be and actually be who they really are

Vulnerability – Allowed themselves to be seen and known.