




COMMUNITY GUIDE

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WEEKLY APPLICATION

TAKEAWAY: Spiritual friendships are God's plan for your life.

HEAD CHANGE: To need and want deep friendship is not a sign of spiritual immaturity, but of maturity.

HEART CHANGE: Practice being wrong.

LIFE CHANGE: Commit to deep spiritual friendships especially when it is hard.

OVERVIEW

Spiritual Friendships

In Genesis 2, before sin entered the world, we see humanity before the fall, before sin. As a result, all the way through the first two chapters, God is creating and looking around and saying, "It is good. It is good. It is good." Suddenly we get to Adam, and He is alone. And God says, "It is not good." Adam was not lonely because he was imperfect, but because he was perfect. In other words, the ache for friends is an ache that is not the result of sin. This is the one ache that is a part of being made in the image of God. If you are lonely, if you want more friends, if you want closer friends, you are not dysfunctional; you are fine. You are lonely because you are not a tree...you are not a machine. You are lonely because you are built this way. Some of you have been so hurt by friends that you have allowed your heart to become hardened and now you say, "I don't need friends." But the less you want people, the less you want friends, the less like God you are, and the less like Jesus you are.

"They committed themselves to the teaching of apostle, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers."

-Acts 2:42 (MSG)-

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you in this teaching? Why do you think that resonated?
2. How has repairing broken relationships been modeled to you throughout your life? What have you seen work well, and what have you seen end poorly when it comes to repairing a broken relationship?
3. Do you have a hard time thinking about yourself as a sinner? Or do you lean toward thinking about yourself as a morally good person? In light of the Gospel, how might the way you think about yourself determine how you relate to God?
4. Think about a broken relationship in your life. Practically, what could it look like to take a step and move toward that person? What holds you back from taking that step?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Father, we can't do any of this without You. Thank you for reconciling us to you. May we live with a greater understanding of your grace and approval on our lives because of what Jesus has done. If there are any areas of our lives that are captured by pride, reveal that to me now, I repent and ask for your humility to walk with you and obey you in response to your love and grace toward me. Help me to live committed to your body, the family of God, and to see the relationships I have broken so that I may pursue reconciliation that honors you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

IN THIS TOGETHER!