

DISCUSSION GUIDE

What God Says About

DISCUSSION GOAL



Discuss the type of friend that God calls us to be. Discuss how who we walk with influences where we go.

ICE BREAKER



Who was your childhood best friend and how would you describe them? Were they a positive or negative influence on you?

TEXT



Have a member of your group read the passage aloud.

Passages from the book of Proverbs | ESV

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

19:4,6 Wealth brings many new friends,
but a poor man is deserted by his friend.

⁶ Many seek the favor of a generous man,
and everyone is a friend to a man who gives gifts.

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

20:6 Many a man proclaims his own steadfast love,
but a faithful man who can find?

27:5-6 Better is open rebuke than hidden love.
Faithful are the wounds of a friend;
profuse are the kisses of an enemy.

27:9,17 Oil and perfume make the heart glad,
and the sweetness of a friend comes from his

earnest counsel.

¹⁷ Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.

22:11, 24-25 He who loves purity of heart,
and whose speech is gracious, will have the king as
his friend.

²⁴ Make no friendship with a man given to anger,
nor go with a wrathful man,

²⁵ lest you learn his ways
and entangle yourself in a snare.

16:28 A dishonest man spreads strife,
and a whisperer separates close friends.

12:26 One who is righteous is a guide to his neighbor,
but the way of the wicked leads them astray.

17:9 Whoever covers an offense seeks love,
but he who repeats a matter separates close
friends.

MESSAGE OUTLINE



This is what our pastoral team observed about the passage.

Big Idea: Who we walk with influences where we go.

Key Question: What kind of friends do we need? And/Or What kind of friends do we need to be? Friends who...

1. Love with sincerity. (vv. 18:24, 19:4, 6, 17:17; 20:6)
2. Provide encouragement and correction. (vv. 27:5-6, 27:9, 27:17)
3. Seek after righteousness. (vv. 22:11, 24-25, 16:28, 12:26, 17:9)

DISCUSSION



- Read Proverbs 13:20. How have you seen those you choose to spend time with influence your life? How do we balance the truth of this text with having relationships with non-believers to be able to share the gospel with them?
- Proverbs 18:24 teaches us the value of having sincere friends instead of just having many friends. Have you experienced having many friends but no one who is truly close to you? How did that impact you?
- Read Proverbs 27:5-6. Do you agree with this text? Have you ever been confronted by a friend that hurt, but was ultimately a gift from God? Have you ever had to confront someone, and it led to greater relationship?
- What does it look like to balance encouragement and correction in friendship? How does balancing these two things bring the familiar Proverb 27:17 to life?
- Revisit Proverbs 22:11, 24-25. When have you experienced someone influencing you either positively or negatively regarding your morals? What can we do when we realize someone might be negatively influencing us?

LIFE APPLICATION



The Proverbs teach us that those we walk with influence where we go. In what ways can your group commit to helping each other go in the ways of Christ this week?

Jot your ideas below and send a picture to your group to remind everyone of your action steps this week.

PRAYER REQUESTS


