



Friends Like These

How Can I Be a Good Friend?

Proverbs 27:17; Philippians 2:19-24

Humans need a few things to survive—water, food, shelter, clothing. Then there are plenty of things we all want—extra money, extra time, hobbies. But let me ask you a question. Where do you consider friendship? For most of us, friendship is something we wished we had, but either don't have the time or don't have the energy to pursue. So, most of us simply choose to live without friends. Here's the problem. Just like we were made to need water, God made us to need friends. Friendship isn't optional. That means we need to prioritize friendship and cultivate those friendships.

Will you be a good friend that points to Jesus?

- As you reflect on the message, what stood out to you? What is something you are still thinking about?
- What is something from the message that challenged you? How are you wrestling with that challenge?
- What question(s) do you have from the message?
- What is at least one practical takeaway from the message?

Proverbs 27:17

Iron sharpens iron,
and one man sharpens another.

Philippians 2:19-24

19 I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. **20** For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. **21** For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. **22** But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel. **23** I hope therefore to send him just as soon as I see how it will go with me, **24** and I trust in the Lord that shortly I myself will come also.

- What would you say makes someone a good friend?
- Read Philippians 2:19-24. How was Timothy a good friend? How was Paul a good friend?
- Do you consider yourself to be encouraging? Why or why not?
- Timothy was an encouraging presence to Paul and his friends. How can we be friends who are encouraging?
- In Philippians 2 we also see that Timothy genuinely cared. Think back through your own life. What was it like to have a friend who genuinely cared? What was it like when you knew you had a friend who didn't genuinely care?
- Just prior to Paul's discussion of Timothy, he writes about encouragement in Philippians 2:1-4. Read this passage. How should Paul's words spur us on to be an encouragement to our friends?
- Read Philippians 2:22-24. In this section, how does Paul describe Timothy? What does this say about Timothy as a friend?
- Think about your friendships. How have your friendships been strengthened by serving together?
- Why do you think serving the Lord together often strengthens friendships?
- What do you need to change to be a good friend who points your friends to Jesus?