

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FROM JANUARY 15, 2017

BIG IDEA:

Friendship. We all want friends and need friends in our lives. Friends to hang out with. Friends that will encourage us. Friends that will stick with us through thick and thin. As we grow up, we can't treat our friends like toys and just throw them around, use them how we want or toss them out when we get a new more popular one. We will look to the relationship between David and Jonathan to see how God's word gives us a picture of friendship.

This week we will look at qualities to look for in a good friend. Remember, in order to have good friends, you have to be a good friend.

ICE BREAKER:

Who is a friend you've known for maybe your whole life (or the longest you remember)? On a scale of 1-10 how good of a friend do you think you are?

DISCUSSION:

1. Read Proverbs 12:26. Today we are going to turn to scripture to see how we can pick good friends. What are top qualities you look for in your friends? How can you tell if a friend will "stick with you"?
2. Who remembers Geo's talk from WAKE? Geo talked about David and Jonathan and specifically when David comes to Jonathan asking his faults. (1 Samuel 20:1-21). Can any student recap that passage? (Leaders be prepared to tell the story or summarize or read.)
3. Do you look for friends that are willing to tell you hard things about yourself? Friends that will tell you when you've been rude to someone or should've approached a person differently?
4. Read Proverbs 27:6. Now remember this question is different **than** the one above: Are you willing to hear a friend's rebuke or challenge even though it doesn't seem encouraging, and might even be really hard to face? What's an example where you have had a friend challenge you and you have taken wise counsel or chosen to ignore it?
5. Think through- (in Proverbs 27:6) how or why would an enemy multiply "kisses" (false flattery).
6. For those who were at WAKE or remember Geo's talk about David and Jonathan, David pleaded with Jonathan to tell him his faults. In some ways he was saying "don't give me lip service. Am I wrong here?" Here's the thing, in this instance David was right and Jonathan knew it was actually the Lord's will that David be king over him. Jonathan was in line for the throne (see **1** Samuel 20:30-34). If Jonathan were advising David with his own wisdom and opinion, he probably would've taken David's question in verse 1 as an opportunity to say, 'leave the thrown alone'. Instead, because Jonathan loves God he puts God's plan and choices above his own (see 1 Samuel 13:13-15).
7. Read 2 Corinthians 6:14-15. Do your friends share your faith and values? Do you have other believers that you are friends with? Would your friends hold to God's standard more than your feelings or **theirs**? Do you guys talk about God's word and what you are learning from the Lord?

8. Friendship is not just for hard stuff, it's also for good times. We need friends who will challenge us, but we also need friends we can laugh with and have fun with. Who is someone in this group that you enjoy being around? Why?

APPLICATION:

9. Think to yourself, who are relationships in your life that are not healthy that you need to not keep as close to you?
10. (Out loud) what are ways as a small group we can do to help you and fill in the gaps as your friends?
11. Who in this small group do you maybe need to invite into a place to speak God's wisdom in your life?
friend to those in your small group this semester? Be specific

SCRIPTURE MEMORY:

Psalm 1:1-3

*Blessed is the one
who does not walk in step with the wicked
or stand in the way that sinners take
or sit in the company of mockers,*

*but whose delight is in the law of the Lord,
and who meditates on his law day and night.*

*That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither—
whatever they do prospers.*