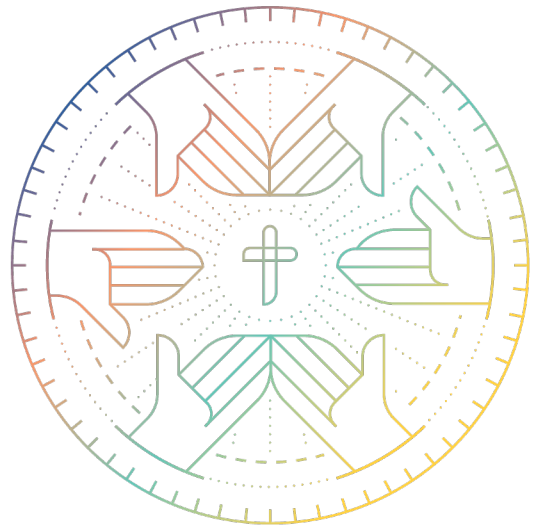


Group Life.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER



SMALL GROUP GUIDE

The Playbook: “How to Develop Biblical Friendships”
Scripture Focus: Proverbs 27

ICEBREAKER

What is one quality that immediately makes someone easier for you to become friends with?

Share with the group about a friend who has had a significant impact on your life. What made that friendship different?

INTRODUCTION

The people we consistently walk with have a powerful influence on who we become. Scripture shows us that biblical friendship goes beyond having common interests or simply enjoying time together. God can use our relationships to strengthen our faith, help us see ourselves honestly, and respond to what He is doing in our lives. The greatest friendships aren't simply those that help us enjoy life, but those that help us faithfully follow Jesus. **What stood out to you most from this week's message?**

INTO THE WORD

Read Proverbs 13:20, Proverbs 27:17, and 1 Corinthians 15:33. How have you seen the people around you shape who you are becoming? What distinguishes a biblical friendship from simply having a close friendship?

Read 1 Samuel 23:16–18, Ruth 1:16–17, and Philippians 2:3–4. What do these relationships teach us about what people need from a friend during difficult circumstances? What can make it challenging to remain present when friendship becomes inconvenient?

Read Acts 9:1-6;26–28, 2 Timothy 1:5–7, and Hebrews 10:24–25. How did Barnabas and Paul help others see what God was doing in them? Why can another person sometimes recognize our God-given potential more clearly than we can?

Read Proverbs 27:5–6, John 15:12–17, and Ephesians 4:15–16. Why are both truth and love necessary in a biblical friendship? What makes it difficult to lovingly challenge someone we care about—or to receive that challenge ourselves? How can self-sacrificial love create the trust necessary for honest conversations?

EMBRACE AND EMBODY

Biblical friendships:

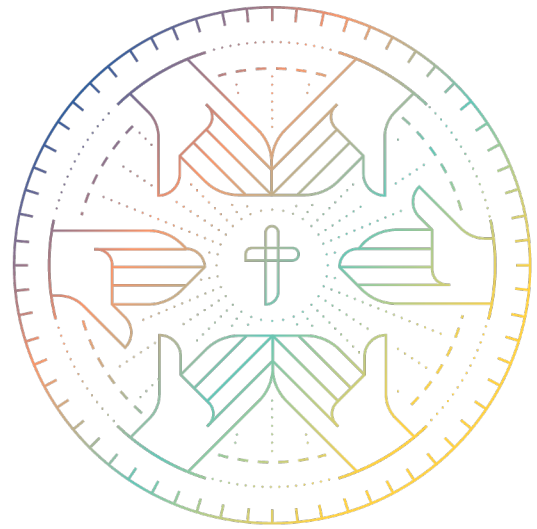
- Strengthen our faith in God & remind us who we are when we forget
- Remain present when life becomes difficult & choose self-sacrifice over personal gain
- Recognize what God is doing before others & speak truth in love.

As a group, discuss the following questions:

- Think about your closest friendships. In what ways are those relationships shaping the person and follower of Jesus you are becoming?
- Which characteristic of biblical friendship from this week do you most want to grow in as a friend?

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TAKE YOUR NEXT RIGHT STEP

(Prayerfully consider one of the following next steps)

- **Build Deep Relationships:** Identify one friendship you want to intentionally deepen. Make time this week to connect with them and then listen, ask a meaningful question, or simply be present.
- **Seek God Daily:** Reflect on the question, “Am I the type of friend that points others to Jesus?” Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any areas of growth to help you become that type of friend.
- **Live Generously:** Choose a friend that has pointed you to Jesus and be intentional to acknowledge their impact in your life and faith journey.

GROUP PRAYER PRACTICE

Give everyone a few quiet moments to reflect on these questions:

- “What kind of friend am I becoming?”
- “Am I being intentional to encourage others?”
- “Who can I intentionally strengthen this week?”
- “Am I willing to forgive when I have been hurt?”
- “Who is God revealing to me that I need to forgive?”
- “Does this friendship draw us closer to God?”

Invite group members to quietly thank God for specific people He has used in their lives. Then pray out loud for one another, asking God to help group members become the kind of friend He desires them to be, to provide biblical friendships where they are needed, and for His wisdom and guidance to strengthen existing friendships.