

MADE FOR RELATIONSHIP: FRIENDSHIP



1 Corinthians 13

KEY TRUTHS

- **True friendship is intentional, not incidental.**
- **Our love for one another is the most important thing.** Who we are is more important than what we do, we can do all sorts of amazing things, but without love, they're nothing.
- **This intentional, loving friendship is like a covenant,** not a contract. It puts others first, seeks to serve not be served.
- **True love is for all our relationships, not only romantic ones.** We see how to love one another by looking to Jesus.

CULTURAL FALSEHOODS

- Romance is the pinnacle of relationship
- Friendships happen by accident

START THE CONVERSATION

A YouGov poll in 2019 showed that:

- *1 in 3 young adults are lonely*
- *27% say they have no close friends*
- *30% say they have no best friends*
- *1 in 4 say they have no friends at all*

How do you measure up? Try to be honest with one another in describing where you're at with friendship.

Our Groups should be places we have deep and meaningful friendships. Take some time to be real with each other about life. Ask some questions that get beneath the surface. You could try these:

- *What brings you the most joy*
- *Where have you seen God's faithfulness in your life?*
- *What are the top three most important things in your life?*
- *What are you reading in your Bible at the moment?*
- *If you could change one thing from the entirety of your life, what would it be and why?*

GOING DEEPER

Read 1 Corinthians 13 together. Pray first, asking God to open our eyes to his word.

As a group, take some time to talk through what people's best and worst experiences of friendship have been. What do you think the reasons were for those experiences?

Explore the difference between incidental friendships and intentional ones. Do you have examples of both in your life? How have they differed?

Work through the list in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 together. This describes the kind of self-sacrificial love that we see in Jesus.

- *What is the most significant aspect of this description of love to you right now? Share these with each other, try to explain why.*
- *What's the thing from this description that you do best? How can you use that strength to bless your friends even more?*
- *Is there a particular area you feel you need to work on? As a group, help one another work through that.*

Of all our friends, acquaintances, colleagues, classmates, etc., is there someone you could go deeper with, committing to living out what we read in 1 Corinthians 13 together?

FURTHER READING

[The Company We Keep](#) | Jonathan Holmes
[Messy Beautiful Friendship](#) | Christine Hoover
[True Friendship](#) | Vaughn Roberts
[The Four Loves](#) | C. S. Lewis
[Life Together](#) | Dietrich Bonhoeffer
[I Believe in the Church](#) | David Watson

VIDEOS & PODCASTS

[The Hard Work of Lifelong Friendships](#) | Christine Hoover | TGC Podcast