

Date.

week 4

Preacher.

@palexevans

Series.

Relationship: *Friendship*

The essence of every friendship is trust and vulnerability. An important component of true Christ-centered friendship is spiritual maturity where both parties are dependent on Christ as they journey in their friendship. Dependence on one another requires **vulnerability** and **trust**. We build vulnerability and trust through one small act of kindness at a time.

Ecclesiastes 4: 7-12 (NLT)

7 I observed yet another example of something meaningless under the sun. 8 This is the case of a man who is all alone, without a child or a brother, yet who works hard to gain as much wealth as he can. But then he asks himself, “Who am I working for? Why am I giving up so much pleasure now?” It is all so meaningless and depressing.

9 Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. 10 If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. 11 Likewise, two people lying close together can keep each other warm. But how can one be warm alone? 12 A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.

James 5:16 (NIV)

Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

John 15: 12 -17 (NLT)

12 This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. 13 There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command. 15 I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn’t confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me. 16 You didn’t choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name. 17 This is my command: Love each other.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Ice Breaker Question: *Anything stand out to you from the video?*

1. Identify one good healthy friendship you currently have. What are some aspects that make that relationship a good strong friendship?
2. Vulnerability is an important part of cultivating a strong friendship. What are some things that prevent you from being vulnerable with the friends around you?
3. As followers of Christ we are called to love and form biblical friendships with one another. How are biblical friendships different from the way this world sees friendship?
4. Read James 5:16. We are called to carry each other's burdens and pray for one another. Do you intentionally pray for each other in your friendship(s)? If not, what is preventing you from doing so?
5. Challenge of the week: Let's cultivate and put into practice this culture of praying for one another. Spend some time sharing prayer requests and praying for one another.