



WEEK FIVE

FRIENDS ARE INFLUENTIAL

Various Proverbs

SERMON REFLECTION

1. Describe one of your main takeaways from this Sunday's sermon.
2. What did you learn about wisdom that you can apply to your life this week?

BIBLE STUDY

1. Read the following proverbs: 13:20, 22:24-25, 23:19-21, 27:17. Explain the influence that friends can have. Think of friends you've had who demonstrated these influences.
2. The book of Proverbs encourages friendship. How does it specifically guide us in regard to the type of friend we ought to be? Consider Proverbs 16:28, 17:17, 18:24, 20:6, and 27:5-6.
3. What do these same proverbs tell us about the importance of biblical friendship and the danger of not having close friends?

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. How do the emotions of your friends impact you? What personality types are you drawn to? Why? Consider what Proverbs 15:13 and 17:22 tell us to look for in a friend.
2. In life, friendships come and go. Proverbs 19:6-7 exposes the fickleness of fake friends, but Proverbs 27:9-10 shows the sweetness of true friends. What are some ways you've seen these proverbs demonstrated in your life?
3. How have friends supported you in times of trial in your life? What have those experience revealed to you about God, yourself, or friendship?

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

Talk with your children about the importance of having good friends. Consider using this ["Object Lesson on Friendship"](#) to explain how people's differences can complement each other.

Share: *People can have many differences, and, despite those differences, they can find common ground to share good times and bad. Salt and pepper can take a bland, boring meal, and turn it into something delicious. True friends can take a bad situation and turn it into something wonderful. You rarely see salt without pepper. What are some of the unique things about your friends that you like?*

APPLICATION

- Thank Jesus for demonstrating what true friendship looks like and ask him to help you follow his example to become a better friend to those around you.
- If you have close friendships, take a moment to thank God for them. Text or call a few of your close friends to tell them how their friendship enriches your life.
- If you don't feel like you have many close friends, bring that need to the Lord. Ask him to help you find a few true friends. Then roll up your sleeves and work to [cultivate friendships](#) with those around you. It will be difficult at first but will produce lasting benefits.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Book: [Made For Friendship](#)

Book: [True Friendship](#)

Article: "[How Friendship with Jesus Impacts Friendship with Others](#)"

Article: "[5 Myths about Friendship](#)"

Article: "[6 Ingredients of True Friendship](#)"

Talk: "[Is Friendship an Option?](#)"

Podcast: [Navigating Loneliness](#)