



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Proverbs: How to Experience Great Relationships

GETTING STARTED

Describe someone who has been a good friend? What made them a good friend?

Describe a time a friendship did not turn out well? What happened? Why did it dissolve?

QUICK REACTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?

What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [Proverbs 22:6]

Proverbs describe three principles to experiencing great friendships or relationships.

1. Choose your friends wisely.

Read: Proverbs 12:26 and 13:20

What would you tell your “younger self” about choosing friends wisely?

How does a “companion of fools” suffer harm?

How can this still apply to us as “adults”?

2. True Friends are candid

What does it mean to be “candid” in friendship or a relationship? Why is this important?

Read: Proverbs 27:5-6; Proverbs 18:1; Proverbs 27:9

What is the difference between open rebuke and hidden love? Why would we rather have hidden love than open rebuke, or kisses from an enemy than wounds from a friend? Would you say you invite honest, candid conversations in your friendships? Why or why not?

Proverbs 18:1

How is isolation a growing problem in our culture today? Why is it against sound judgement? In what way are starting, keeping and maintaining friendships difficult today?

Proverbs 27:9

What connection is there between oil and perfume and a friend's earnest counsel?

3. True Friends are confidants

Read Proverbs 16:28

Why does honesty and our words matter in our relationships? How have you experienced this?

Proverbs 17:9

How can overlooking an offense or forgiving an offense create closer bonds in friendship? How can we choose to build or tear down relationships?

Proverbs 15:22 and 28:13

How are these two Proverbs connected in thought regarding friendship and relationships?

How could listening to these Proverbs strengthen your friendships/relationships and experience success?

APPLY THE PASSAGE

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in these passages?

What do you need to stop, start or do differently as a result of reading this passage?

How can we pray for each other?