

Abide in Me

John 15:4
*Bible studies for disciples
who make disciples*



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The Week of February 19, 2023

Get Wisdom
A Little Help From Our Friends
Proverbs 27:1-10

Welcome to week seven of our series, *Get Wisdom*. This week we are going to explore what the book of Proverbs teaches us about friendship. Reading all the proverbs on friendship scattered throughout the book shows us there is something profoundly wise about pursuing friendships, being a friend, and the folly of living our lives isolated from one another.

Read Proverbs 27:1-10

As you read this passage ...

- Circle each time the words *friend* or *neighbor* occur.
- In the left margin of verses 5, 9, and 10 write one word that captures what each verse says about friends, neighbors, and friendship.

- ¹ Do not boast about tomorrow,
for you do not know what a day may bring.
- ² Let another praise you, and not your own mouth;
a stranger, and not your own lips.
- ³ A stone is heavy, and sand is weighty,
but a fool's provocation is heavier than both.
- ⁴ Wrath is cruel, anger is overwhelming,
but who can stand before jealousy?
- ⁵ Better is open rebuke
than hidden love.
- ⁶ Faithful are the wounds of a friend;
profuse are the kisses of an enemy.
- ⁷ One who is full loathes honey,
but to one who is hungry everything bitter is sweet.
- ⁸ Like a bird that strays from its nest
is a man who strays from his home.
- ⁹ Oil and perfume make the heart glad,
and the sweetness of a friend comes from his earnest counsel.
- ¹⁰ Do not forsake your friend and your father's friend,
and do not go to your brother's house in the day of your calamity.
Better is a neighbor who is near
than a brother who is far away.

DISCUSSING FRIENDSHIP FROM THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

1. Briefly describe your most meaningful friendship. How have your closest friendships shaped you over the years?

2. What key words about friendship did you write in the margin after reading Proverbs 27:1-10? What do they mean to you?

3. Proverbs 18:1 says, “Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment.”
 - a. Do you think friendships are necessary or just nice to have around when possible?

 - b. What is the caution sounded in the verse above? How have you experienced this to be true in your own life?

 - c. What are some challenges you have experienced in sustaining friendships over the years?

 - d. How can we try and overcome all the challenges that exist?

4. Proverbs 18:24 says, “*A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.*” In what way(s) is a true friend more faithful than a sibling?

5. Proverbs 12:26 says, *“One who is righteous is a guide to his neighbor, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.”* Proverbs 22:24-25 says, *“Make no friendship with a man given to anger, nor go with a wrathful man, lest you learn his ways and entangle yourself in a snare.”* Why and how does the choice of your friends determine the direction of your life?

6. Proverbs 17:17 says, *“A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.”* What does it mean to be a friend who loves at all times?

7. In reviewing the many proverbs related to friendship, do you value them the same way that wisdom recommends? How do they encourage you to examine and reset your friendships so that they are more meaningful and intentional?

8. The greatest Friend we could ever have is Jesus Christ. Read John 15:13. Jesus is more than our Friend, but how did Jesus model true friendship?

OTHER PROVERBS RELATED TO FRIENDSHIP

Proverbs 14:20: *“The poor is disliked even by his neighbor, but the rich has many friends.”*

Proverbs 17:9: *“Whoever covers an offense seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates close friends.”*

Proverbs 19:6: *“Many seek the favor of a generous man, and everyone is a friend to a man who gives gifts.”*

Proverbs 22:11: *“He who loves purity of heart, and whose speech is gracious, will have the king as his friend.”*

Proverbs 25:17: *“Let your foot be seldom in your neighbor's house, lest he have his fill of you and hate you.”*

Proverbs 27:17: *“Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.”*

