



# FRIENDSHIP

## Introduction

This week we look at what counter-cultural friendships look like and how they are unique, how to discover a friend, how to forge a friendship once discovered, and where we get the power for friendship. The 4 marks of true friendship are:

1. **Constancy** - *a friend has chosen you not to make you a means to an end, but an end in yourself.*
2. **Carefulness** - *friends give the gift of emotional connection voluntarily.*
3. **Candor** - *truth telling.*
4. **Counsel.** - *graceful truth telling with reassurance and sweetness.*

It is only the Gospel of Jesus Christ that makes true friendship possible. Friendships based in Christ can be radical and exhilarating at the same time. Don't be afraid to reach out in friendship.

## Discussion

Who was your best friend as a child and what do you remember most about your friendship?

## Explanation

In what ways does our culture shape our idea of friendship?

How does the Gospel enable us to develop true friendships?

## Application – Read John 15:12-15

What is the most challenging part of friendship for you?

Are you satisfied with your friendships or are you longing for more?

*Discuss each of the four marks of true friendship.* In which of these four marks do you need to grow to become a better friend first?

## Mission

How can someone come to know God's goodness by you showing true friendship with them?

## Homework – Read Proverbs 14:29

Are you slow or fast to anger?

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## Today's Verses:

John 15:12-13  
Proverbs 18:24  
Proverbs 17:17  
Proverbs 18:24  
Proverbs 27:9

Proverbs 25:17  
Proverbs 18:24  
Proverbs 26:18-19  
Proverbs 27:14  
Proverbs 25:20  
Proverbs 27:5-6

Proverbs 29:5  
Proverbs 27:9  
Proverbs 27:17  
John 15:12-15  
Proverbs 27:6