

REALIGN FRIENDSHIPS

FACILITATOR GUIDE

NOTE TO FACILITATORS: *This week is supposed to bring in a winter storm, so many of your small group members will probably be stuck at home. Check in with each one and make sure they are doing okay.*

Also, note that many of the CPC events this may be canceled due to inclement weather. Be sure to check on CPC Facebook pages to make sure.

CPC HAPPENINGS...

COFFEE WITH THE PASTOR

Sunday, February 28, 6 pm

Register online for this event. yourcpc.church/events

NIGHT OF WORSHIP

Saturday, March 6, 6 pm

MAD OFFERING

Sunday, March 14

This is a once-a-year opportunity for you to make a difference at CPC and around the world!

What is God asking you to give?

BEST FRIENDS FOREVER

What do you remember about your first best friend?

What's the longest friendship you have with a person?

List some of the characteristics you look for in a friend:

Which of those characteristics do you think Jesus displays in your life?

On a scale from 1 (Lonely Loser) to 10 (Social Butterfly) how easy is it for you to make new friends?

How much time per week do you spend on Facebook or other social media?

Do you find Facebook to be addictive?

Do you spend more time scrolling through than you mean to?

How does Facebook give a false sense of relationship? **[Instant gratification. People will agree with you, like your post, and make you feel like you have “friends.” But these are not true relationships.]**

Pastor Chris made the statement that God never meant for any of us to be a “spiritual Lone Ranger.” What did he mean by that? **[No one is meant to do life alone. We need others to pray for us, support us, encourage us, and help point us in the right direction.]**

Think about this: The first thing God saw that was wrong in the garden of Eden wasn't **SIN**—it was **LONELINESS**.

Genesis 2:18— Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”

This first relationship was between God and man. While that was good, God saw that Adam still needed someone who was like him. Loneliness was the first thing that God said wasn't good.

WALKING WITH GOD

In Genesis 5, we read of a mysterious man named Enoch.

Genesis 5:23-24— Thus all the days of Enoch were 365 years. ²⁴ Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.

The phrase “walked with God” is a Hebrew expression of friendship.

What do you think a life of walking with God looks like? **[Daily prayer and communication with God. Obeying and following God's commands. Living holy. Etc.]**

Living in obedience and prayer isn't just a matter **RIGHTEOUSNESS**, but it is about cultivating a **RELATIONSHIP**.

What happened to Enoch? [“God took him.” Enoch is the first person to be “raptured.” You’ may have heard of that word. In the New Testament Paul tells us that the believers in Christ will one day be snatched away. In other words, we will be raptured to heaven. Enoch was the first to know what that is like.]

How long did Enoch live? [365 years.]

How many days are in a year? [365 (except during leap year)]

Numbers in the Bible carry a special significance. The number 365 correlates to everyday of the year. There is a message here that points to practicing a relationship with God each and every day.

What do you do every day to maintain your relationship with God?

FRIENDSHIP is the ultimate goal of the Gospel.

Christians rightly think about salvation as forgiveness of sins and eternal life as the basis for our relationship with Jesus. But it is more than this. Jesus gives all who trust Him the privilege of being His friends.

John 15:14–15—You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

God invites you to a friendship with Him. And all other friendships should begin with Him.

Friendship shows the world that we belong to JESUS.

When this lonely world of broken relationships sees churches filled with friendships—imperfect friendships, to be sure, but relationships filled with true repentance and forgiveness—then they will know that something has come from above. They will see that our talk of Jesus as the friend of sinners is real.

John 13:35—By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.

Do you think the world recognizes you as a friend Jesus?

What can you do this week that might display friendship to others so they might see Jesus in you?

GOD'S DESTINY FOR YOUR FRIENDSHIPS

God wants your relationships to bring Him **GLORY**.

Acts 9:26-28—When he (Saul/Paul) arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, since they did not believe he was a disciple. ²⁷ Barnabas, however, took him and brought him to the apostles and explained to them how Saul had seen the Lord on the road and that the Lord had talked to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken boldly in the name of Jesus.

Why didn't the disciples welcome Saul into their ranks? [They didn't believe that he was really changed. See, in Saul's past he was convinced that Christians were wrong and needed to be killed.]

What part did Barnabas play in Saul's story? [Barnabas vouched for his conversion. Barnabas believed in the redemptive power of God to take someone who had a bad past and change him to be used for God's glory. Barnabas even volunteered to take Saul with him on his missionary journey. This paved the way for Paul to learn what it would take to plant churches and encourage believers throughout the Middle East and Europe.]

Have you ever had a friend who believed in you?

If a person dwells on your past mistakes over and over is he/her really your friend? [If they constantly bring up your past, they may not be celebrating who you are now. Be careful about someone who consistently questions whether you are really saved.]

God uses relationships to move you closer to your **PURPOSE IN HIM**.

Exodus 4:10-14,16 — But Moses said to the Lord, "Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue." ¹¹ Then the Lord said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the Lord? ¹² Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak." ¹³ But he said, "Oh, my Lord, please send someone else." ¹⁴ Then the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses and he said, "Is there not Aaron, your brother, the

Levite? I know that he can speak well. ...¹⁶ He shall speak for you to the people, and he shall be your mouth, and you shall be as God to him.

Moses and Aaron were family, but it was through their cooperation with one another that they were able to accomplish God's divine destiny for their lives. One needed the other in order to fulfill their destiny. Sometimes family need to work at being friends too.

Who in your life is helping to nudge you in your walk with God?

Who might God be placing in your path to be a partner in ministry?

Sometimes we don't have a person who is the spiritual influence we would like to have, and instead, God sets us up to BE that person for someone else.

Who might you be nudging toward their purpose in Christ?

Is there anyone that God may be wanting you to join with in accomplishing a task for Him?

Proverbs 27:17—Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.

PRAYER TIME

- If you have asked Jesus to be the Lord of your life, take a moment to thank Him for His special friendship in your life. If you have a great, encouraging friend, thank God for that relationship in your life.
- Pray for a deeper commitment level to your relationship with Jesus. Ask God to help make you more dedicated to time with Him.
- Ask God to help you be an example of a good friend in the life of your friends. Ask Him to reveal to you how you can nudge your friends toward a closer relationship with Jesus.
- Ask God to realign the relationships in your life. Pray that He partners you with people who love Him and can be good influences in your life. God's destiny for you includes great people to walk through life with. Don't neglect the people who God has placed in your path. Cultivate those friendships and cover them with your prayers.