

# SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

THE NEED FOR BIBLICAL FRIENDSHIP

I SAMUEL 18:1-4

OCTOBER 29<sup>TH</sup>, 2023

## I. Four Reasons for This Series

- a. Biblical friendship is a neglected topic in the Christian Life.
- b. We are more connected and feel lonelier than ever.
- c. Unhealthy busyness and exhaustion lead many to settle for an underdeveloped "frientimacy".
- d. Friendship is more idolized than truly experienced.

## II. Defining Biblical Friendship

**Questions: \*you may not have time to discuss all of the questions below so select the most important ones for where your small group is at during this particular season\***

1. What comes to mind when you think about friendship? Have the group share whatever comes into their mind first.
2. How would you define biblical friendship and how is it different from friendship that the world/unbelievers experience?
3. How should the fact that we've been created in the image of God who eternally exists in perfect relationship with the members of the Trinity inform how we think about friendship?
4. What is the relationship between Christian friendship, biblical community, and fellowship? Are these all the same or different and why? As a follow-up, are any of these optional for a growing Christian according to the Bible?
  - If you believe it is appropriate, discuss if you should expect those in your small group to be your close friends and why or why not.

Take a few minutes to review each of the 4 reasons for this series:

5. Do you agree that Christian Friendship is a neglected topic in the Christian Life and why or why not? What are the dangers if it is a neglected topic?
6. How has technology and social media impacted our understanding of friendship? How have you seen this in your own life?
7. Why do you think a lack of "frientimacy" (deep intimacy, vulnerability, and truly known) exists in many "friendships"?
8. In what ways can friendship be idolized and unhealthy?
9. Discuss the image shown in the sermon of the four concentric circles of relationships we have and what stuck out to you.