

# SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

INGREDIENTS TO FLOURISHING FRIENDSHIP

PROVERBS 27:5-6, 9-10, 17

NOVEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2023

## Six Ingredients to Flourishing Friendship

- I. Mutual Bond: 1 Samuel 18:1
- II. Deep trust built through dependability and loyalty: 1 Samuel 23:16-18; Proverbs 27:10
- III. Heart-level vulnerability: Proverbs 27:17
- IV. Gracious honesty: Proverbs 27:6
- V. Unconditional and sacrificial love: Proverbs 17:17
- VI. Christ-centered: Mark 2:1-5

## Questions:

1. As you think about the six essential ingredients to flourishing friendship presented in the sermon, are there others that you would include that were not mentioned and why?
2. Why is having a mutual bond so important in order for a friendship to truly flourish?
3. How is trust built through dependability and loyalty? If trust is broken in a friendship, is it possible to repair it? Why or why not?
4. What is most challenging about being vulnerable at the heart level with another friend? As a follow-up, review the five criteria for distinguishing between vulnerability and sharing and ask if these are realities in their friendships:
  - You share your fears, failures, and weaknesses not just strengths, successes, and positives
  - You invite others in as you suffer not just after the trial is over
  - You are open about your sin with specificity
  - You are honest about where you are spiritually without an “insincere Christianeze” spin to it
  - You are transparent about your fears
5. Why is it so challenging to be truly honest to those you are closest with in friendship? Discuss with the group how to live out Proverbs 27:5-6 more faithfully and what is needed in order to live out that Proverb.
6. In what ways do you personally fall into viewing friendship “consumeristically” and transactionally rather than unconditionally and sacrificially?
7. Is it truly a flourishing friendship if there’s no sacrifice or inconvenience involved? What are the dangers of a friendship that rarely involves sacrifice?

8. What are some practical ways you can more consistently place Christ at the center of your friendships and imitate the four friends of the paralytic from Mark 2?
  
9. Take a few moments for each person in the group to take inventory of their current friendships and ask them to consider if these six ingredients are present in those friendships. You don't need to ask them to share with the group but this would be a good time for them to stop and reflect and consider any changes that need to be made in order for them to experience friendship more fully.