

## Sticky Group Discussion Questions for Sunday, April 26, 2015

### God's Rx for Friendship

#### Proverbs 19

God has made people with a built-in need and capacity for friendship. Through the Proverbs, he provides us with rich insights for making our friendships as fulfilling and purposeful as possible in a sinful, fallen world.

1. Read through Proverbs 19 together. George Bernard Shaw once said, "If the other planets are inhabited, they are using the earth as their insane asylum." What different kinds of people do you discover in Proverbs 19? Which ones would you like to be friends with? What do you think is the purpose, or goal, of earthly friendships?

2. Take time to read about some friendships described in the Bible. Then answer a few questions about what you see in those friendships.

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|---|---------------------------------|
| • Moses' friendship with God            | Exodus 33:7-17                  |
| • Abraham's friendship with God         | James 2:21-23 ; Genesis 18:1-18 |
| • Jonathan's friendship with David      | 1 Samuel 17:55 – 18:4           |
| • Jesus' friendship with his disciples  | John 15:12-17                   |
| • Jesus' friendship with Lazarus        | John 11:1-3, 33-36 ; 12:1-2     |
| • friendships among members of a church | Romans 16:1-23                  |

What characterizes these friendships?

Describe a great friendship you've had.

Describe what your own friendship with God is like right now.

3. Of the ten qualities of a great friend mentioned Sunday, which seemed most important to you?  
... most surprising? ... most difficult to find in a friend?

Why is it also important to be cautious in choosing a friend? (Consider Proverbs 12:26 and Proverbs 13:20.)

4. In conclusion, read Proverbs 17:17 and 18:24, and consider the following quote from evangelist and teacher H.A. Ironside (1876 – 1951):

"Involuntarily, the Christian's heart turns from any human example, however true and devoted, and calls upon one Friend whose love the many waters of judgment could not quench, neither could the floods of wrath drown it. Our Lord Jesus Christ is that Friend, whose love changes not, and who is preeminently a Brother born for adversity. ... As a devoted brother can be depended on in the day of adversity, so can He be ever counted upon in the hour of need and trial (John 13:1).

"It is unspeakably precious for the soul to abide in His love. If one doubt come in to obscure the full splendor of His undying affection, joy and peace will give place to gloom and foreboding. But when nothing is permitted to hinder the enjoyment of that perfect love that casteth out fear, life is sweet indeed, and communion with Him dearer far than any human friendship can afford.

"There is no question but that many saints have trusted Him as their Saviour, who do not really know Him as a living, loving Friend – One who enters into all their griefs and would share all their joys. It is when He is known in this character that the difficulties of the pilgrim path can be faced with equanimity, and the heart can confide in Him in every hour of trial."

What do you need to do this week to grow your friendship with the Lord?

What do you need to do to be a friend to others, ... and to grow in God's purposes for your present friendships?