

Sermon Supplement from August 11

Proverbs #9 - Friendship

WARM UP

- What characteristics make for a good friend? What about a bad friend?

DIG IN – “4 Characteristics of a Good Friend”

1. A Good Friend Chooses Quality Over Quantity (18:24)
 - What is the difference between companions and friends in this passage?
 - In what ways does our culture value quantity of friends over quality?
 - How might you intentionally invest in quality friends?
2. A Good Friend Can Be Trusted To Tell The Truth (27:6)
 - What makes it so hard to call out sin and foolishness in the lives of our friends?
 - Why is it important that we build trust before we speak truth? What are some ways we can build that trust?
 - How can you become better at both hearing and speaking truth with your friends?
3. A Good Friendship Is Mutually Beneficial (27:17)
 - How does the knife sharpening word picture help you understand the principle of this Proverb?
 - Name some specific ways Christians can spiritually sharpen one another.
 - How can you tell the difference between a healthy, interdependent relationship and an unhealthy, codependent relationship?
4. A Good Friend Is Faithful Through It All (17:17)
 - Respond to this statement: *“A true friend knows who you really are, and still they stand beside you.”*
 - Talk about your faithful friendships that have been forged in the fire of adversity.
 - What are some practical ways you can cherish your faithful friends?

WRAP UP

- In what specific ways has this message and discussion challenged you to BE a better friend?
- In what specific ways has this message and discussion challenged you to HAVE better friends?
- What specific action steps will you take as a result of this study?