

Proverbs 17:17 Choosing Godly Friendships Choose Wisely

Transition:

Friendships are truly important in our Christian walk. In the story of David and Jonathan (King Saul's Son), Jonathan was forced to choose between the loyalty to his father or his friend David. King Saul was so jealous of David because of his popularity with the people and thought he was after his throne. He continuously tried to deceive David by pretending to be his friend when all the while he wanted to kill him. (1 Sam 18: 12-16) Jonathan loved his friend David as himself and knew he was a godly man, so he made an oath to God to protect David and his house from his father even if it cost him his life. (1 Sam 18:3, 20:16-17) It's a heartbreaking story, but God's plan was fulfilled through this godly friendship as David would go on to become King. This story illustrates the length a godly friend will go to, and sacrifice for a friend and the importance of knowing God's character when choosing godly friends.

Tell the story:

Tell the story (with passion!) the best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story. Perhaps leave some parts out or make a mistake, just to see if your group catches it!

Rebuild the story:

Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story. Then have someone else tell the story the best they can – just like you modeled the first time.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are the consequences of having ungodly friends? (Prov 13:20, Prov 22:24-25)
2. How do Godly friends help me in my walk and life? (Prov 17:17, 27:17, Ecc 4:9-10)

Fundamental:

Choose your friends wisely – Jesus is not only Lord, He is our friend! (John 15:15) We should seek to be friends with the friends of Jesus and not this world. Friends of the world are enemies of God and walk in unrighteousness to satisfy their flesh. The Bible calls them adulterous people (James 4:4). The Bible also tells us there will come a time when the world will not listen to God's word, but will turn away from His truth to suit their own desires. (2 Tim 4:3-4) Sounds like the world we live in today doesn't it? That's why it's important to have Godly friends. They will speak truth in love, even if it hurts, but their counsel will lead you to Christ, not away from Him. (Prov 27:6) Having Godly friendships and fellowship with believers helps us grow and share the Gospel with others as the day draws near to Christ's return. (Heb 10:24-25)

1. How then should we choose our friends? (Prov 12:26, 18:24)
2. How did Jesus show his love and friendship towards us? (John 3:16, 15:13)

Homework/Challenge:

1. Identify any relationship leading you away from God? Ask God how you should proceed in these relationships, and consult your Godly friends for counsel as well.
2. Share the Gospel with your unbelieving friends and pray for their salvation.

Discipleship Tip:

If you have unbelieving friends, invite them to church, or your small group.

Prayer:

Lord we pray that you lead us into Godly friendships so we can grow together in your word, lift each other up as needed, and be of one accord for Your Glory, Amen!