



Relationships

BIBLICAL FRIENDSHIP PRINCIPLES

AT A GLANCE

BIG IDEA

Friendship is a vital part of life, but it requires understanding, mutual benefit, and sacrifice. By examining biblical teachings, we can learn how to maintain meaningful relationships that withstand adversity and foster growth. This study will guide you through the principles of true friendship, highlighting the importance of mutual sharpening, commitment, and sacrifice.

PRIMARY PASSAGES

Proverbs 27:17

Proverbs 17:17

Proverbs 18:24

Proverbs 27:6

John 15:13

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Understanding people is essential for fulfilling your purpose.
- True friendship involves mutual sharpening and honest correction.
- A true friend remains committed in all circumstances.
- Friendships without standards can lead to negative outcomes.
- The greatest love in friendship involves sacrifice.

INTRODUCTION

Friendship is a cornerstone of human experience, offering support, joy, and growth. The Bible provides profound insights into the nature of true friendship, emphasizing understanding, commitment, and sacrifice. This study explores these principles, guiding us to form and maintain relationships that are both meaningful and enduring.

SCRIPTURE READING

- **Proverbs 27:17** — Highlights the importance of mutual sharpening in friendships.
- **Proverbs 17:17** — Shows that a true friend loves at all times and supports in adversity.
- **Proverbs 18:24** — Warns against having too many friends without maintaining standards.
- **Proverbs 27:6** — Emphasizes the value of honest correction from a true friend.
- **John 15:13** — Describes the greatest love as laying down one's life for friends.

KEY POINTS

1. UNDERSTANDING PEOPLE — Understanding people is crucial to fulfilling your assignment. Without this understanding, you cannot build meaningful relationships that contribute to your life's purpose. Recognizing the unique qualities and needs of others allows us to connect deeply and supportively. This understanding is not just about knowing others but also about being aware of how we can serve and uplift them.

- Reflect on how well you understand the people closest to you.
- Seek to learn more about the needs and strengths of your friends.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance in understanding others better.

KEY POINTS (CONT.)

- 2. MAINTAINING RELATIONSHIPS** — True friendship must involve mutual sharpening and honest correction. A friend who loves at all times is invaluable, especially during adversity. This involves being open to receiving and giving constructive feedback, which helps both parties grow. The commitment to stand by each other in difficult times is a hallmark of genuine friendship.
- Identify a friend with whom you can have honest conversations.
 - Practice giving and receiving constructive feedback.
 - Commit to being present for your friends in their times of need.

Scripture: Proverbs 27:17

Proverbs 17:17

Proverbs 27:6

KEY POINTS (CONT.)

3. CHALLENGES IN FRIENDSHIPS — Having too many friends without standards can lead to negative outcomes. The greatest love in friendship involves sacrifice, as shown by laying down one's life for friends. It is important to discern which relationships are worth investing in deeply. True friendship often requires us to prioritize others' needs above our own, reflecting the sacrificial love taught in Scripture.

- Evaluate the quality of your friendships and their impact on your life.
- Consider ways you can sacrificially support a friend this week.
- Pray for wisdom in choosing which friendships to invest in deeply.

Scripture: Proverbs 18:24 John 15:13

GROUP DISCUSSION

Tip: Use these questions to guide the group from seeing → understanding → applying.

OBSERVATION

- What does Proverbs 27:17 suggest about the nature of friendship?
- How does Proverbs 17:17 describe a true friend?
- What warning does Proverbs 18:24 give about friendships?

INTERPRETATION

- Why is mutual sharpening important in friendships?
- How can honest correction strengthen a friendship?
- What does it mean to lay down one's life for a friend, according to John 15:13?

APPLICATION

- How can you apply the principle of mutual sharpening in your friendships?
- In what ways can you demonstrate sacrificial love to your friends?
- What steps can you take to ensure your friendships are based on biblical principles?

PRAYER FOCUS

- Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance in understanding and supporting friends.
- Ask for wisdom to invest in meaningful and godly friendships.
- Seek strength to demonstrate sacrificial love in your relationships.

NEXT STEP

Reflect on your current friendships and identify ways to apply biblical principles to strengthen them.

CONCLUSION

Friendship, as depicted in the Bible, is a profound relationship that requires understanding, commitment, and sacrifice. By applying these biblical principles, we can cultivate friendships that not only enrich our lives but also reflect the love and truth of God. Let us strive to be friends who sharpen, support, and sacrifice for one another, embodying the true essence of biblical friendship.