



The Grove

BIBLE CHAPEL

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LIFEGROUP RESOURCES: 05.08.22 Pulpit Curriculum

Timothy: A Good Friend

Main passage: Philippians 2:19-24

Flourishing in Christ includes becoming fluent in friendship.

- 1) **Paul and Timothy** (Acts 16:1-3; Acts 17:1-3; Acts 19:22; 1 Cor. 4:17; 1 Cor. 16:10-11; 1 Thess. 3:1-2; 2 Tim. 4:9, 21; 1 & 2 Tim.)

isopsychon (adjective)- one souled [v. 20: "no one like him"]

- Paul and Timothy partnered in ministry (for about 10 years) fueled by a deep love and commitment for Christ and for each other. We should fight to model and cultivate Biblical friendships like theirs.
- A. Paul was a loyal friend who had a deep interest in people and a tender heart to meet their needs. When you begin to form a friendship with someone, do you spend more time talking about yourself and your interests or do you primarily actively ask intentional questions to learn more about the other person to see how you can be a good friend to them more so than how they can be a good friend to you? _____
- B. For Paul, his ministry was mixed in with fellowship and discipleship. What is the relationship between friendship and service/ministry in your life? _____

- 2) **The Friend of Friends** (Exod. 33:11; Ps. 73:28; Luke 7:34; John 15:15)

- Jesus is ultimate friend and wants to have a friendship with us so that we can participate with His mission- discipleship- drawing near to Him to then draw near to others.
- A. Reflect upon your friendship with Jesus. Is He an intimate friend to you or an acquaintance? How can you grow closer to Christ in your friendship this week? _____
- B. Friendship with the world is to make one an enemy of God (James 4:4). What worldly pursuits have become a stumbling block to your friendship with Jesus that may be keeping you from getting to know Him in a deeper way? _____



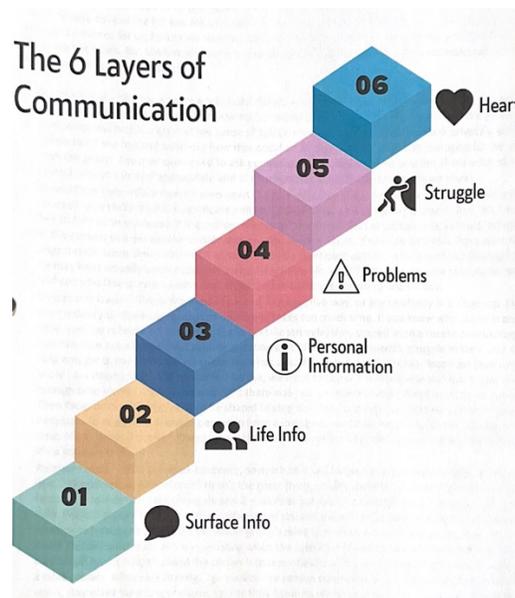
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3) Intimate Christian Friendship (1 Sam. 18:1-2; 2 Cor. 6:11-13; Col. 2:2-3)

- We enlarge our heart and become vulnerable with each other, by God's grace, to enjoy meaningful/fruitful friendship that is soul-quality/one-souled.
- A. Do you struggle with being vulnerable with others? If so, what is holding you back from being transparent and open with someone to strengthen your friendship with them? _____
- B. To be able to build intimate Christian friendship, we must go beyond surface level conversation. What "layer" do you tend to stay at when communicating with another brother and sister in Christ? *See *Six Layers of Communication* graphic



4) Building Good Friendships (Prov. 17:17; Prov. 18:1; Prov. 27:17; John 15:13; Phil. 2:30)

- The foundation of good friendships must begin with Christ (vertical then horizontal) to be able to sustain loyal, sacrificial, intentional, caring, and committed relationships.
- A. It's easy to be private and guarded in our society with our individualism, but Christ's Church is a family and a community endeavor; We should seek out those who are isolated because they may be suffering from loneliness. During greeting time on Sunday or the next women's or men's events at The Grove, ask the Lord who you can intentionally and thoughtfully approach to engage in fruitful conversation with so you can begin to build a meaningful relationship. Make this a weekly habit to meet someone new and share Christ's love who may desperately need it.
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