

Message Study Guide

(Scriptures & quotes from this week's message are available on thorncreek.church/live)

Warming up

1. How do you define a close friend?

2. A Cornell University Study showed the average person has two close friends. Do you agree with that?

Digging Deeper & Application

Take your time reading the scripture given. If possible look up the verses in different versions and pause at each verse and discuss it.

1. Read John 13:34.
 - a. Compare it with Ephesians 4:32.

 - b. What do these two verses say about friendship?

 - c. Based on these verses, what is the purpose of friendship?

2. Pastor Ruben talked about choosing friends that reflect your destiny. Have you ever considered surrounding yourself with friends who reflect the kind of person you want to become in the future?

3. During the weekend, we looked at three (3) different friendships in the bible. The first one was Elijah and Elisha.
 - a. What does 2 Kings 2:2, say about their friendship?

 - b. The best friends care about your walk with God. They pray for you. They care about your soul. How many friends do you have that meet this description?

 - c. In one week, how often do you talk to them?

4. The next friendship we looked at was Euodia and Syntyche. Please read Philippians 4:1-2.
 - a. What are some of your observations?

- b. Now read Phil 4:3. What does Paul ask from other church members?

5. The best friends are willing to work through it. They work through their problems, misunderstandings, concerns, etc. But, in churches, you see friends part ways. They leave a church. They leave a job.
 - a. Why does this happen with so many?

 - b. Compare with Prov 17:9; 27:5-6.

6. The last friendship was Naomi and Ruth. Please read Ruth 1:1-17.
 - a. What do you think about Ruth?

 - b. Could you do that?

Application

Below are the main points of the message. Discuss how they apply to your life.

- “Friendship..is born at the moment when one ‘human’ says to another “What! You too? I thought that no one but myself..” - CS Lewis
- “You need someone who loves you enough to tell the truth, even if it means risking the relationship.” -TD Jakes
- There was a study by Care Ministries that said, when people visit a church, they have two questions:
 - Can this church meet my needs?
 - Is there anyone here like me? (Does this surprise you?)
- The best friends are willing to go down the same road with you. It may not mean physically moving to a new location, but it does mean going down the same road of worry, concern, problem, etc.
- Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. - John 15:13