

Study Questions from 12.05.2019 sermon

Introduction

- i. On the reverse of this sheet are all the Proverbs verses about friendship which are referred to in the sermon. Read through together to get them fresh in your mind.
- ii. The most commonly used word for 'friend' and 'neighbour' in Proverbs is רֵעַ (Ray' - ah). Can you remember what type of person the word describes?

When choosing a close friend, be picky

- iii. Proverbs 12:26 & 22:24 tell us to choose our friends carefully. Discuss what Proverbs 13:20; 18:24a and 20:6 tell us about why we are to choose carefully.
- iv. What other reason was given in the sermon as to why we should be picky? (Clue: Pr. 18:24b)

A close friend is sticky

- v. Pr. 17:17 and 18:24 tell us that close friends love at all times and stick with us no matter what. What does the Hebrew word translated 'stick' in Pr. 18:24 mean?
- vi. How did Samwise Gamgee prove he was a sticky friend to Frodo?
- vii. Share with your group how your close friend(s) have proved their stickiness to you.

A close friend treads sensitively

- viii. Read Pr. 25:20; 26:18-19 and 27:14. What is the reason the friend is being insensitive in these verses?
- ix. What are some emotionally disconnected phrases it is insensitive to share with a friend who has a heavy heart?
- x. What are some emotionally connected phrases it is sensitive to share with a friend who has a heavy heart?

A close friend brings you injury and felicity

- xi. What does felicity mean?
- xii. Discuss how Pr. 27:5-6, 9 show that a close friend will bring you both joy and pain.
- xiii. Rebuke and wounds from friends are very important if we are to do well in life. But they are difficult to give and receive. What do you think helps both the giving and receiving of rebuke/wounds?

To be a close friend, embrace the ultimate friend.

- xiv. Finish your study by discussing how the four headings above apply to Christ and how embracing him empowers us to be the type of close friends Proverbs describes.

Proverbs about friendship

Proverbs 12:26 The righteous choose their friends carefully, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.

Proverbs 22:24 Do not make friends with a hot-tempered person, do not associate with one easily angered.

Proverbs 20:6 Many claim to have unfailing love, but a faithful person who can find?

Proverbs 13:20 Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.

Proverbs 17:17 A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.

Proverbs 18:24 One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

Proverbs 16:28 A perverse person stirs up conflict, and a gossip separates close friends.

Proverbs 17:9 Whoever would foster love covers over an offence, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.

Proverbs 26:18-19 Like a maniac shooting flaming arrows of death is one who deceives their neighbour and says, "I was only joking!"

Proverbs 27:14 If anyone loudly blesses their neighbour early in the morning, it will be taken as a curse.

Proverbs 25:20 Like one who takes away a garment on a cold day, or like vinegar poured on a wound, is one who sings songs to a heavy heart.

Proverbs 27:6 Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.

Proverbs 27:9 Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of a friend springs from their heartfelt advice.