

## Community Group Discussion Questions

---

### “Friendship, Part One”

Proverbs 27:9, 18:24, 27:17

**Sermon Series Title:** “The Church of God”

**Sermon Series Summary:** The Church of God is the people of God throughout the ages, redeemed by Jesus Christ. We’re going to take a look at who we are and who we are called to be as the church of God. More specifically, we see that who we are is directly connected to whose we are in Christ.

**Passage Setting:** Life is not black and white. It’s not about following a bunch of rules or accumulating knowledge. Wisdom requires discernment on applying the heart of God in all of life. King Solomon wrote the Proverbs in Scripture along with other books to provide such wisdom. This book covers all kinds of topics like money, speech, marriage, parenting, diligence, work, and friendship.

**Summary:** Life is not about following a set of rules. Not everything is black and white. We need wisdom to discern the best course of action, including friendship. Through the Proverbs today, we will see the discovery, intentionality, and accountability of true friendship. We see Jesus being the perfect friend for us through His life, death, and resurrection.

**Central Truth:** “In our individualistic and busy world, may we discover intentional and accountable friendships in Christ.”

**Sermon Points:**

1. The Context
2. The Call
3. The Christ

**Opening Question**

1. What does it mean to be friends with someone?

*(Answers may vary.)*

***We’re going to take two Sundays to look at friendship in Proverbs. King Solomon gives us wisdom on what friendship is and how to cultivate it.***

## Community Group Discussion Questions

---

**Read Proverbs 27:9, 18:24, 27:17**

2. What is the difference between wisdom and knowledge?

*(Knowledge is just information, while wisdom is transformation. Knowledge is factual, while wisdom is actual. Knowledge is to know the truth, while wisdom is to apply the truth. The difference between knowledge and wisdom is if the truth that is in the mind applies to the heart.*

*Even with theology or Scripture, it can just be knowledge and never wisdom. Orthodoxy always moves towards orthopraxy and doxology. Knowledge is lived out and applied, and when it is, it turns into wisdom.*

*Life is not just rules or facts. God doesn't just call us to live with knowledge but He calls us to live with wisdom. It's to navigate the gray and to be faithfully obedient in all circumstances.)*

3. What stuck out to you about friendship in the passages read?

*(The Discovery of Friendship (27:9)- Sweetness back then was discovered, not created. Friendship begins with discovery- common loves and vision (against individualistic society). Friendships are not created when you face one another. They are created when you face in the same direction. Christian faith can create deep friendships between people who are completely different from one another, because they are facing Christ. And the sweetness of friendship occurs when there is earnest, personal, heart-felt, loving counsel.*

*The Intentionality of Friendship (18:24)- This is profound for a culture that is centered on family far more than modern times. Families may be there for us, but they may not like or understand us. Friendships that are closer than family occur when they are cultivated through intentional time together.*

*The Accountability of Friendship (27:17)- Friends sharpen and challenge one another. This includes encouragement/blessing but also rebuke. We sharpen the person and character of one another. Friendships are unique where both are mutually given. We will never become the people we are meant to be without friendships. In true friendships, hurt may occur but never harm. Hurting will be for the sake of healing.)*

## Community Group Discussion Questions

---

4. How does this influence your approach to friendships?

*(Answers may vary.)*

*In our individualistic culture, we are called to share with, sacrifice for, and walk together with one another. In our busy culture, we are called to make time and be intentional to cultivate our friendships. And our friendships should go deeper and more committal. Our friendships should not be based on superficial peace but a deep love that pursues the best for the other.)*

***Final Thoughts:*** *Loneliness is an epidemic in America more than ever. We are losing sight of our call to have deep, rich, and loving friendships. They are hard and uncomfortable, but they lead to fulfilling lives. We are called to not just have friends but to be wise with our friendships. We are able to do this, because God first became friends with us through the ultimate loving friend in Jesus.*