



Growth Group Questions
August 2, 2026
"A Friend of Jesus"

SCRIPTURE & QUOTES

John 15:9-17

⁹ "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other.

Tim Keller – "Friends Always Let You In. . . Never Let You Down"

2 Timothy 1:16-18

¹⁶ May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains. ¹⁷ On the contrary, when he was in Rome, he searched hard for me until he found me. ¹⁸ May the Lord grant that he will find mercy from the Lord on that day! You know very well in how many ways he helped me in Ephesus.

1 Samuel 23:15-18

¹⁵ While David was at Horesh in the Desert of Ziph, he learned that^[a] Saul had come out to take his life. ¹⁶ And Saul's son Jonathan went to David at Horesh and helped him find strength in God. ¹⁷ "Don't be afraid," he said. "My father Saul will not lay a hand on you. You will be king over Israel, and I will be second to you. Even my father Saul knows this." ¹⁸ The two of them made a covenant before the LORD. Then Jonathan went home, but David remained at Horesh.

John 15:4-5

⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. ⁵ “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

QUESTIONS

1. In John 15:15, Jesus tells His disciples “I no longer call you servants... Instead, I call you friends...” How does Jesus calling us His friends change our relationship with Him?
2. Pastor Paul spoke about “deal” friends vs. “real” friends. In your opinion, what are the characteristics of a “real” friend?
3. Pastor Paul said that Jesus is our “ultimate friend.” What does that mean to you?
4. What Bible verses help you to understand the meaning of true friendship?
5. Pastor Paul related three examples of friendship from the Bible: David and Jonathon, the Apostle Paul and Onesiphorus, and the four friends of the paralytic who took him to Jesus. What other Biblical examples of friendship can you find in the Bible? What does the example you chose teach you about true friendship?
6. Tim Keller said: “Friends always let you in. . . Never let you down.” What does it look like to let others into your life?
7. Why do we sometimes find it hard to let other people into our lives?
8. What can you do to strengthen the friendships you currently have with others?
9. What can you do to strengthen your friendship with God?

PASTOR PAUL’S SERMON QUESTIONS

1. Do I need to let “someone in”?
2. Do I need to “refresh” someone?
3. Is there a “seasonal” friendship that I need to renew?