

My Friend Account

Series: What 2 Live 4

Dr. Les Hughes

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Scripture: John 15:13-15

¹³Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵I 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.

Genesis 17

¹ When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless. ² I will confirm my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers."

³ Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, ⁴ "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. ⁵ No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. ⁶ I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. ⁷ I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. ⁸ The whole land of Canaan, where you are now an alien, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God."

Group Session

Opening Questions

Your life and your eternity will be impacted by the close friends you have. Have have your friends made an impact on your life?

Discussing the Scripture & Life

1. Read John 15:13-15. How does it make you feel that God wants to be your closest friend? How do we balance friendship and Lordship? What else do we glean from that passage?
2. If it is true that most people only have a few close friends in a lifetime, what does that say about how we select and invest in people?
3. True friends clearly communicate their expectations of one another. Do we see God's word as His communication of expectations for our friendship?
4. People form an opinion of you by the company you keep. How do we balance building evangelistic relationships and supportive, spiritually-encouraging relationships?

5. 1 Corinthians 15:33 tells us that “bad character corrupts good morals”. Do you think it is true that bad influence wins out over good most of the time? Why? How can we change that?
6. James 4:4 communicates that to be friends with the world is to be enemies with God. What do you think this means? What are the ways that believers are most tempted to be “friends with the world?”
7. True friends keep their promises. Do you find it difficult to keep the promises you make to God? Should we make promises? Are we afraid to make promises to God or to others?
8. True friends care enough to lovingly confront when necessary. Share a time when you have been challenged? Was it handled correctly? Was it beneficial or hurtful?
9. Read and discuss the following verses:
 - a. Prov. 27:6
 - b. James 5:19
10. When one friend breaks the trust of the other, the offended person forgives. Do you find it hard to forgive? Do we have to have a discussion or can we forgive without discussing the issue?

Closing Challenge

What is God leading you to do as a result of this message? Which of the following best describes God's speaking?

- a. I need to find friends.
- b. I need to find new friends.
- c. I need to invest more in the friends I have.
- d. I need to focus on a close few rather than so many.
- e. I need to have a spiritual component to my friendships.
- f. Something else: _____