

Growth Group Homework and Discussion Questions

For the Week of May 9-15, 2010
"Who Needs Friends?"

Homework:

Before your Growth Group meets, take about 20 minutes on your own to complete the following...

Read the following verses from Proverbs: 13:20; 17:9,17; 18:1,24; 19:6-7; 20:19; 22:24-25; 27:6,10,17.

What wisdom does Solomon give you about the kind of person you should be looking for in a close friend? From these verses, what do you need God to help you with in becoming a better friend to others?

Growth Group Discussion Questions:

The following questions are to be discussed when your Growth Group meets this week.

My Story: Describe one of the best friendships you've ever had. How did that friend affect you and change you?

Digging Deeper: Read Mark 2:1-12.

1. Think about the paralyzed man. What do you think was challenging for him in order to be friends with the group of men?
2. What do the actions of the four men tell you about the kind of friends they were to the paralyzed man?
3. What did Jesus see in these four men that led to His work in the paralyzed man? What does that tell us about the importance and value of spiritual friendships?
4. How do you think Jesus' healing of the paralyzed man affected his friendship with the other four men from that point on?

Living It: His friends carried the paralyzed man while he was lying on a mat. That mat is a symbol of human brokenness and imperfection. The truth is, everybody has a "mat." It may be

fear, anger, lack of trust, the need to be in control, a past failure, inadequacy, loneliness, or any number of things.

1. Who carries your "mat" for you sometimes? Who do you show your weaknesses and struggles to? Who do you trust with your brokenness? Is this easy for you? Why or why not?
2. Are you more likely to carry someone else's "mat" for them or to allow someone else to carry yours? Why?
3. Whose faith had had a "roof-crashing" affect on your life?
4. From this group discussion, your homework, and Sunday's message, what is one action step that you need to take in order to become a better friend?