

RELATIONSHIPS

UNCENSORED

Week 2 - How Not To Suck As A Friend

Big Idea

Being great at friendships can be difficult at times. It's a skill that is not really given much attention in our lives. As a result, our friendship may run wide and we're known by a lot of people, but the relationships are not deep. To where, people actually know our strengths, weaknesses, hurts, our goals, our dreams. However, we can learn how to master the boundaries with the people around us to have a healthy and live giving community in the seasons of our lives.

Discussion Questions

- 1.) Pastor Jason taught, "Casual friends can be the result of your **circumstances**, but close friends should be the result of my **choices**." Why do you think it is important that you **choose** your close friends?
- 2.) Has there been a time in your life that you had to create boundaries for certain people in your life?
- 3.) Choosing close friends can be tough at times, but necessary. There are people who **like to argue**, people who **like to gossip**, people **flatter others**, and people who **can't control their temper**. Reflecting on the list, are there people in your life you may need to create boundaries?

(Proverbs 20:3 TEV) Any fool can start arguments; the honorable thing is to stay out of them

(Proverbs 29:5) Flattery is a trap; evil people get caught in it, but good people avoid it and are free

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(Proverbs 22:24-25) Don't make friends with a hot-tempered person. Don't associate with anyone easily angered, or you'll learn to be like them and not able to change.

- 4.) Healthy friendships can exist too! To name a few characteristics we need to have, we have to be **considerate**, **consistent**, **confidential**, and **candid**? How can we grow in these areas?

(James 1:19) Let everyone be quick to listen and slow to speak

(Proverbs 18:24 LB) There are "friends" who pretend to be friends, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother

(Proverbs 11:13 TEV) No one who gossips can be trusted...but you can put your confidence in someone who is trustworthy

Next Steps

The one constant in any relationship is people. We will never control people's actions or character, but we certainly can control ours. Put into practice of being considerate, consistent, confidential, and candid. Then you can be a friend that will inspire others to take their character to the next level of maturity. Lastly, be courageous and set healthy boundaries with people that may like gossip, argue, flatter others, or lack temper control.

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Prayer Request & Final Prayer

Father, we thank you for giving us the ability to come together to carry each other's burdens when life gets tough. We ask the Holy Spirit to not only help us create healthy boundaries with people, but to be someone who can reflect the way Jesus did on this earth. Continue to shape us and mold us into the men and women we were called to be. Amen