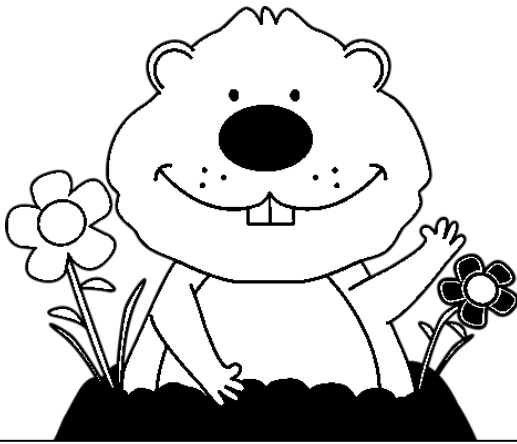


BLOOM 2023 presents

Sweet & Sour Friendship



Never thought I'd gopher a
friend like you, but I'm
glad I did!

Name :

Starting discussion:

1. What do you most treasure about friendship? Think about some of your dearest friends.... What is it that makes these friendships so sweet?
2. How would you define friendship? How about Christian friendship?
3. What questions do you have about friendship? What are you hoping to get out of this session?

Introduction

1. Friendship Foundations

a) WHAT is biblical friendship?

i) as distinct from other relationships?

ii) as distinct from the world's idea of friendship?

iii) key ingredients

- CLOSE (2 Sam 13:3-4; Deut 13:6; 1 Sam 18:1)

- COUNSEL (Proverbs 27:9; 27:5-6)

- CONSTANT (Luke 15:6,9,29; Proverbs 17:17, 18:24)

b) WHY do we need biblical friendship?

To reach God's goal for us.

i. God's goal for us (Eph 4:11-16)

ii. How we help each other get there (Colossians 3:16, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18, Hebrews 3:12-13, James 5:16)

- _____ words that _____ & _____
- _____ words about our _____ in Christ that gives _____ & _____ in times of grieving
- _____ words about the danger of a hard heart & the deceitfulness of sin, so that our friend will reach _____
- _____ words, humbly _____ our sin & _____.

Christian friendship is.....

2. Reality check!

Friendships can be difficult & disappointing...

... but we do have the perfect friend! (John 15:12-15)

3. Forging Christian friendships

a) **CLOSE**- so invest **time** & be **vulnerable**!

b) **COUNSEL**- so **use your words** to build!

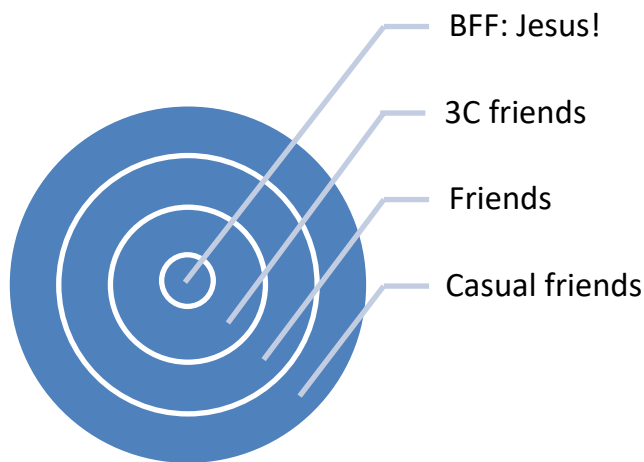
c) **CONSTANT**- so **be there** in good & bad!

Conclusion

Small Group Time:

1. How has God's Word challenged / expanded / deepened your view of what friendship is, and why it's important?

2. Spend some time reflecting on the friends God has given you and what kind of friendship you have with each of them. The central spot has already been taken (:



3. Spend some time reflecting on yourself as a friend
 - In what ways has God *already* been growing you be a 3C friend to others?

 - In what ways has God rebuked you today, showing how you need to grow in being a 3C friend to others?

- What difference would it make to your friendships to have maturity in Christ as the ultimate goal?

- What will you do about this? Think concretely here! Names & actions.

4. What other things would you add to point 3 of the talk: Forging biblical friendships? Any other ingredients you think are key to friendship? Any tips or suggestions from your own experience in either seeking new friends or seeking to grow better friendships?

5. Are there questions you have about the talk or topic that you want to raise in QnA? If so, submit it at **slido.com, meeting #1667106**

Suggested Prayer Time:

1. Spend some time reflecting on the friends God has given you, and how they have enriched your life.
 - Praise God for the wonderful gift of friendship, thanking Him for the friends He's given in your life- both past and present.

2. Spend some time reflecting on yourself as a friend
 - Thank God for the ways in which he's already been growing you as a good friend to others
 - Ask for God's help in growing to be a better friend, according to His good purposes for friendship.
 - Share one or two steps that you hope to take

3. Spend some time reflecting on Jesus as the best friend
 - Praise Him for being the friend we really need!
 - Pray you'll grow more and more to see Him as your closest, most wonderful friend
 - Pray about specific ways in which you'd like to be the kind of friend that Jesus is

Recommended Reading

- "True Friendship" by Vaughan Roberts
- "Messy Beautiful Friendship: Finding & nurturing deep and lasting relationships" by Christine Hoover
- "Relationships: a mess worth making" by Paul Tripp & Timothy Lane

Notes