

## Guide for Growth Group Hosts Cultivating My Friendships (Better Days Series)

### THINK ABOUT IT

What was your favorite point from this week's message?

### DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- How many *real* friends do you have in your life? What qualities separate them from others in your life?
- (Read the Verse Below) You must be committed if you want to cultivate friendships. How do you show your loyalty (trustworthiness, reliability, dependability) to your friends? Explain your answer.

*Some friends may ruin you, but a real friend will be more loyal than a brother.*

**Proverbs 18:24 (NCV)**

- (Read the Verse Below) It's important to be considerate (thoughtful, kind, selfless) if you want to cultivate friendships. How have you been thoughtful to your friends lately? If your friends had to grade you on kindness, what grade would they give you? Do you find it easy or difficult to forgive the faults of your friends?

*Love prospers when a fault is forgiven, but dwelling on it separates close friends.*

**Proverbs 17:9 (NLT)**

- (Read the Verse Below) Another important aspect of friendships is confidentiality. Why is gossip so damaging to friendships? What can you do to refrain from even the appearance of spreading gossip?

*A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy person keeps a secret.* **Proverbs 11:13 (NIV)**

- (Read the Verse Below) There is a difference between being candid (motivated by love) and insulting. Your ability to be candid with your friends could prevent them from making a poor choice in life. Have you ever had to be candid with a friend regarding a situation in their life? Was it easy or difficult to do? What was their reaction?

*Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Wounds from a friend can be trusted,*

**Proverbs 27:5-6 (NIV)**

- (Read the Verse Below) What does the verse below mean to you? How are you sharpening your friends on a consistent basis?

*As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend. Proverbs 27:17 (NLT)*

- One of the easiest things we can do to cultivate friendships is to encourage others. The world is consistently tearing people down, telling them they don't measure up. How have you been encouraging to your friends in the past?
- (Read the Verse Below) One of the last points discussed in this week's message was the importance of being consistent (dependable, reliable, steady) with your friends. How consistent are you with your friends? How consistent is your communication with your friends? What can you do to improve your consistency in general?

*A friend loves at ALL times... Proverbs 17:17 (NIV)*

### **LIFE APPLICATION**

In order to cultivate friendships, it's important to be committed, considerate, confidential, candid, constructive, and consistent. Go around the room and share practical examples of how you were able to implement one of the items mentioned in this list. Due to confidentiality, please omit names when sharing your stories.

### **DIVE DEEPER**

**Go deeper during the week!**

- A great way to dive deeper and learn more about Jesus is by reading **God's Word** daily. Commit to reading for at least 5 minutes per day to start. Here is a bible reading guide to help you take your next steps in that area: <https://experienceheritage.org/next-steps/read-the-bible>
- Read the **daily devotionals** each day found at [www.experienceheritage.org/blog](http://www.experienceheritage.org/blog). You can sign up to have them delivered daily to your email inbox by clicking here: <http://experienceheritage.org/Devotionals>.
- Read the **Memory Verse** below each day during your quiet time with God. See if you can memorize the verse prior to the next session.

*So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God. Romans 5:11 (NLT)*



### **PRAYER GUIDANCE**

During the prayer time, have everyone pray for each other in groups of 2 or more related to today's Growth Group content. After praying for a few minutes, the group leader will say a short prayer for the entire group.