

Women's Getaway 2026

God's design for Friendship

Introduction

Discuss

What makes for a good friendship?

Fellowship v Friendship?

So what is Godly/Biblical Friendship?

1. Friendship starts with God
2. Friendship is modelled by Jesus

The marks of biblical friendship (TRUE Friendship)

1. A true friend is **Close** – Prov 18 v24
2. A true friend is **Constant** – Prov 17 v 17
3. A true friend shows **Candor** – Prov 27-5, 6
4. A true friend is **Careful** – Prov 25 v 20, 27 v 14
5. A true friend **Counsels** – Prov 27 v 9
6. A true friendship is **Costly** – John 13 v 14-17

Discuss

Where have I seen these marks of true friendship in my own life?

Hindrances to Biblical Friendship

1. Reducing friendship to shared activity/interest/life stage.
2. Jealousy – Proverbs 27 v 4
3. Exclusivity
4. Selfishness
5. Speech – Prov 16 v 28

The tongue has the power of life and death – Prov 18 v 21.

Discuss

Where have I seen these challenges in my own friendships?

How to develop true friendships

1. Invest time wisely – ask God for wisdom! Prov 27 v 10. Friendships need cultivating.

Who? Old and new

e.g. sharing meals – Prov 15 v 17. *A dish of herbs is fine*

2. Recognise my need – the best friendships may not be the most obvious.

Do we desire to be a life – giver rather than a life taker?

Think about Titus 2 and spiritual mothering.

Discuss

1. Where do I need to grow in developing these kinds of friendships?
2. What might I do to encourage or be encouraged by an older/younger woman?

The Goal of True Friendship

1. To become better than myself!
2. To reflect the gospel. All our relationships are shaped by it.
3. That the world might see and believe – John 13 v 35

JESUS – the TRUE Friend

TRUE Friendship – a joyous thing;

‘To talk and laugh and do kindness to each other; to read pleasant books together; to make jokes together and then talk seriously together; to be sometimes teaching and sometimes learning – these and other similar expressions of feeling, which proceed from the hearts of those who love and are loved in return, and are revealed in the face the voice, the eyes and in a thousand charming ways, were like a kindling fire to melt our souls together and out of many to make us one.’

Augustine c400AD.

Helpful resources

True Friendship – Vaughan Roberts.

The Company we keep – Jonathan Holmes

A meal with Jesus – Tim Chester

Side by Side – Ed Welch

Caring for one another – Ed Welch