



Discussion Guide for “Friendship”

Next Level Week 1

We're in the midst of a loneliness epidemic, and far too often, churches are part of the problem. How can that be, when Jesus insists that he made us his friends? What does it mean for a church to take friendship seriously, particularly in the midst of a culture dying to connect?

Passage for Sacred Reading:

Sacred Reading is a way of reading Scripture with an eye toward transformation, not just information. Get a [step-by-step guide here](#). The passage for this week's sacred reading is Matthew 6.

Questions for Discussion

1. Where do you see evidence of a loneliness epidemic?
2. What is the difference between a "casual friend" and a "close friend"? Is this similar to a church being friendly, but not making friends easily?
3. What are some of the most common challenges that friendships face? How have you overcome these challenges to maintain strong friendships?
4. How does our current church model encourage building friendships? How does it inhibit that?
5. As we move toward a new model, what does it look like to be intentional about making it easy to make friends?