The Issue:

Often times when we think of our friends, good times and crazy stories come to mind. Friends are always good for making fun memories! However, Scripture shows that there is a greater purpose for friendships that goes beyond all the fun and games.

What does the Bible say?

Note what these verses teach concerning the purpose of friendships:

> Prov. 27:5-6 – Confronting sin and keeping each other in line.
> Prov. 27:9 – Giving advice and helpful counsel when needed.
> Prov. 27:17 – Building each other up/improving each other.
> Eccl. 4:9-12 – Encouraging and strengthening each other.
> Acts 27:3 – Helping meet the needs of one another.

What should I do?

As we can see, friendships can be very valuable. We must recognize the need we have for friends, as well as the important role we have in each other’s lives. As you reflect over the verses above, keep in mind these helpful truths:

1. It is easier for others to notice areas in our life that need to be improved than it is for us to notice ourselves.
2. Keeping each other accountable can go a long way toward growing in godliness.
3. An encouraging word or a helping hand may be exactly how God desires you to uplift a friend.

Cherish your friendships and be sure they are meeting the purposes God has intended for them. Our next lesson will wrap up this study by looking at specific ways we can become better friends to those around us.