

Teen Topics

Friendships (Part 2)

The Issue:

Often when we think of our friends, good times and crazy stories come to mind. In addition to the fun, our previous lesson showed how friendships serve an important purpose in shaping us into the kind of people God wants us to be. For this reason, we must take our friendships seriously, which includes making wise choices regarding who we call friends.

What does the Bible say?

As we begin, let's see what Scripture says when it comes to choosing friends:

- > **Prov. 12:26** – It's good to be cautious when choosing friends.
- > **I Cor. 5:9-11** – Do not hang out with people involved in sin.
- > **I Cor. 15:33** – Beware, bad company will corrupt good habits.
- > **Prov. 19:6-7** – Watch out for people who want to use you.
- > **Prov. 13:20** – Having wise friends will make a person wise.

What should I do?

When it comes to making friends, Scripture does not imply that we should hang out with whoever will hang out with us. Rather, we are told to carefully choose individuals who demonstrate godliness. Some good questions to ask may be:

1. Will this person bring me closer to the Lord or pull me away from Him?
2. Is this person living the kind of life that God would want me to live?

In order to enjoy good friendships, we must first have good friends. Only then will we be able to enjoy the benefits God offers through those relationships. Next, we'll conclude our series by considering some practical tips Scripture gives on how we can be a good friend to others.