




Message by Pastor Steve 8-21-16  
Message Based Questions to help your personal Study & LifeGroup Discussions

 **CONNECTING:** *Connecting to one another with a warm up question or through worship.*

*Who was your best friend from childhood? What made you so close?*

 **EXPLORING IT:** *Review the sermon outline and explore the message by using the following Q's which will help you dig in a little deeper and make sure you get the message.*

*The mission of the church is to transform the world through the life-changing message of Jesus for the glory of God.  
By loving God, loving God's people and then loving the world.*

To Listen to Message (CTRL + Click the Link)

<http://www.northlakeonline.org/messages/index.html>

Are friends more important to you now than they were in elementary school? Why or why not?

There's an old saying that goes "in order to have good friends you have to be a good friend." What does that mean? Do you think it's true?

As Pastor Steve shared, there are many fair-weather friends in Proverbs. But he also shared some positive characteristics such as humility, honesty, compassionate, consistency-high character, loyal and trustworthy and faithfulness as crucial characteristics of a good friend.

Do you have friends like this in your life?

How have those friends encouraged you to walk with God?

So what would you say makes a good friend? How about a great one?

What character in the Bible stands out to you as a great friend? Why? (My personal favorite is Jonathan—David's friend)

What about the opposite? Who in the Bible stands out as a crumbly friend? Why?

How do you tell the difference between true friends and false friends?

When you are looking for a friend—what quality is most important to you?

Which quality of a friend from Proverbs do you tend to overlook? Has this ever been harmful to you or your friendships?

Think about your friendships—when would you say you have been part of a truly authentic and mutual friendship? What made that friendship so great?


When have you experienced a really toxic or strained relationship? What kinds of things were said and done that made it so?

How does your relationship with God affect your relationship to others? Explain.

In what one way do you think you could be a better friend?

How are you going to go about in finding friends that are going to make you better and encourage you to be who God wants you to be?

How can we pray for you?

 **PRAY IT:** *Now that you have connected, explored and applied it—it is now time to tap into the power of prayer individually throughout the week as well as corporately praying for one another. Perhaps by sharing the real life challenges and blessings with one another this will help people see what God can do in their lives and will lead them into a plan of action.*

## More Food for thought

*As Pastor Steve shared with us—everyone needs friends. It is the second most basic relationship in life next to our relationship with Jesus Christ. Jesus told us that the two most important commandments are to love God with all our hearts and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Pastor Steve due to time constraint's just tipped the iceberg on the subject today. Proverbs and the rest of the Bible are so full of wisdom and instruction and ways to maintain and develop meaningful relationships with one another. I loved Pastor Steve's story about Pastor Buster and here is another one demonstrating the unselfishness and the loyalty to a friend, hope you enjoy.*

*On August 5, 1936, at the Berlin Olympic Stadium it was a little past nine in the evening. The pole vault event had lasted longer than expected.*

*The final three competitors were Earl Meadows of the United States and two close friends from Japan, Shuhei Nishida and Sueo Oe. Nishida had won a silver medal in the 1932 Los Angeles Games. The bar was at 14 feet 3 1/4 inches, which Earl Meadows cleared on his second try. Nishida and Oe missed all three attempts. The two Japanese continued to jump for second and third place, but the competition ended without a conclusion when it became too dark to continue.*

*"Oe and I went back to the Olympic Village certain we had tied, since we both jumped identical heights," Nishida remembered. (At that time they did not have another tie breaking rule.) The officials decided to award the silver medal to Nishida. They never fully explained their reasoning. Oe was awarded the bronze. Nishida was not happy with the decision.*

*When they got back to Japan both Oe and Nishida decided to cut their medals in half. Then they joined half of the silver medal with half of the bronze medal for each of them. The medals were called the Medals of Eternal Friendship. Soon after Oe was killed in World War II. His medal is on display at the National Stadium in Tokyo. What an unselfish act on the part of a friend.*

*Keep Pressing On!*

*Rob Richards*

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