



## A Guide to Wise Living

**About the Series:** Life's a maze with many challenges, distractions, and obstacles, and sometimes we take a wrong turn or make foolish choices. The Book of Proverbs gives us practical ways to live wisely so as not to have so many regrets in life and helps us live in such a way that we fully enjoy our lives as God intended.

### Part 7

## Friendship Goals

Proverbs 13:20, 17:9, 18:24, 22:24-25, 27:5-6, 27:17 | Dr. Stephen G. Tan

### DISCUSS

Friends and friendships in our lives are so important that the Bible has much to say about this matter.

- Why is social life important and why is isolating yourself from others detrimental to oneself? (Proverbs 18:1, Hebrews 10:25)
- What are the benefits of going to church and being involved in a church community?
- What does Proverbs 27:10 say about the importance of cultivating deep and genuine friendships?

Let's take a look at what the Bible says are the type of friends we are to have and the type of friend we are to be for others:

#### A friend who influences positively (v. 13:20, 22:24-25)

- What type of friends do these verses teach you to surround yourself with?

- Why do you become like the people you surround yourself with? Share how a so-called friend was a toxic influence to you.
- Has anyone been a good influence to you? In what way?
- How are you influencing your friends?

#### A friend who is available (v. 17:17)

- What kind of a friend does this verse refer to?
- What does "a friend that loves at all times" mean?
- In the busyness of your schedule, do you make yourself available for a friend?
- What does it take for true friendships to cultivate?

#### A friend who stays through difficult times (v. 18:24)

- How does this verse define a true friend?
- Why is the significance of friendship found in their quality, not quantity?
- What is a true friend for you?
- Share how you had been there for a friend when there was every reason for you not to be there.

#### Friends who spurs us toward Christlikeness (v. 27:17)

- How do friends usually encourage each other to better themselves?
- Are you a type of friend who spurs others toward Christlikeness? In what way?
- Do you have a friend that spurs you towards Christlikeness? In what way?

#### A friend who advises and corrects (v. 27:5-6)

- How do these verses describe a friend?
- How would you rebuke a friend when you know that what he or she is doing is not right? Would you call out a friend when you see him or her becoming self-destructive?
- How do you react when a friend corrects you?

#### A friend who forgives (v. 17:9)

- How do you, as a friend, forgive your erring friend? What would happen if you keep on bringing up the past mistakes of your friend?
- How does God forgive you?
- Why is practicing forgiveness good for your mental health?

## **REFLECT**

There is one friendship that all of us need to cultivate, and that is a deep intimate friendship with Jesus Christ. Read John 15:13-15. How do you feel about the fact that Jesus genuinely desires to be your friend, that He willingly laid down His life for you, His friend? How do you respond to His friendship?

## **PRAY**

Heavenly Father, thank You for the lessons on friendship. Thank You that I have a friend in Jesus who bore my sins and griefs. He is my faithful friend who cares so much for me. Thank You, Lord God, that I can commit to You everything in prayer. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.