

Family Matters

How to Make Friends Who Are Like Family

MAY 15, 2022

There's family, and there's family—friends who are like family. Building deep friendships as an adult is easier said than done. Here are some principles to help.

MESSAGE NOTES AND HIGHLIGHTS

- We all need friends who are like family.
- There is no formula to making friends, but we can use wisdom to put ourselves in the best position.
- A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity. | Proverbs 17, v.17
- A true friend is someone who loves you at your best, at your worst, and everywhere in-between. A true friend sticks around when adversity hits.
- We should be investing our precious time into friends like these.
- A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. | Proverbs 18, v.24 (ESV)
- We can't have deep friendships with everybody. We don't have the capacity to do so.
- Social media cannot be a substitute for deep, close friendship.
- Deep friendship is about quality over quantity.
- The first component to building a deep friendship--put yourself in position.
- "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." | John 15, v.13
- Don't expect great friendships if you're not willing to be a great friend first.
- Great friendships aren't transactional. Great friendships are mutually selfless.
- Being vulnerable is a necessary ingredient to develop deep friendships.
- But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. | 2 Corinthians 12, v.9
- Sharing our weaknesses is how grace and love and closeness get injected into a friendship.
- Great friends are vulnerable with each other. They accept those vulnerabilities, and they reciprocate vulnerability.
- A friendship dies without time. To be a great friend, you need to make time.
- We need to be intentional, selective, and creative in making time for our friendships.
- These deep friendships are what God uses to show us love in flesh and blood.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was the easiest time in your life to make really close friends?
2. What are some of the qualities of the best, deepest friendships in your life (the ones you've had, have, or want to have)?
3. What challenges do you face now in developing deeper friendships?
4. In what ways have you seen the following qualities contribute to a friendship: mutual selflessness, vulnerability, and time?
5. How can you grow or improve in those three areas with a friend this week?