

DISCUSSION GUIDE

SEPTEMBER 7/8 | WHAT MATTERS?

GOD'S STORY ON FRIENDSHIP

FOR STARTERS

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged you or raised questions?
2. As a group, talk about your first good friend (who, where, when, etc).
3. When you think about friendship, what's great about it and what has been hard?

DIGGING IN

1. Read Genesis 2:18, which reminds us that we were created for relationships. Note what wasn't good, talk about why and how that's true.
2. Genesis 3 tells us that we walked away from a friendship with God and in doing so all relationships were fractured. Read Genesis 3:11-12, 16, 23-24 and describe what happened.
3. From Adam and Eve it only gets worse, yet God in His grace begins to unveil His plan to restore and reconcile our relationship with God and each other.
 - a. Read James 2:23 (Remember Abraham worshipped idols before God pursued him.) Why is Abraham called God's friend?
 - b. What does Jesus say about friendship in John 15:13-17?
 - What is the mark of a true friend (v 13)?
 - How does one become Jesus' friend (v 14)? See also 1 John 3:23.
 - What are the effects of a friendship with Jesus (vv 16-17)?
 - How does Jesus make us God's friend? Read Romans 5:10-11 (NLT if you have it). Also look up Colossians 1:19-23.

BRINGING IT HOME

1. Read Hebrews 10:24-25. How can you as a group live out these verses?
2. Reflect on our amazing God who made enemies His friends by sending His Son to die for us. How should that change the way we see ourselves and the way we pursue friendship with God and others?
3. Where is God asking you to grow in your friendship with Him and others?

MESSAGE NOTES

MESSAGE SERIES:

TITLE:

SCRIPTURE: