



# Ship Shape

EMBARKING ON A JOURNEY OF GROWTH  
"FRIENDSHIP"

 New Life Christian Center  
May 12, 2024

Pastor David Larson | Turlock  
Pastor Jeremy Moore | Patterson

## 1. God designed me for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

*Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. Likewise, two people lying close together can keep each other warm. But how can one be warm alone? A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (NLT)*

*There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me. John 15:13-15 (NLT)*

## 2. Friendships are \_\_\_\_\_.

*There are "friends" who destroy each other, but a real friend sticks closer than a brother. Proverbs 18:24 (NLT)*

*They couldn't bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, so they dug a hole through the roof above his head. Then they lowered the man on his mat, right down in front of Jesus. Mark 2:4 (NLT)*

*If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. Ecclesiastes 4:10 (NLT)*

*The godly give good advice to their friends; the wicked lead them astray. Proverbs 12:26 (NLT)*

*The righteous choose their friends carefully, but the way of the wicked leads them astray. Proverbs 12:26 (NIV)*

## 3. God has given me the \_\_\_\_\_ of friendship.

*The heartfelt counsel of a friend is as sweet as perfume and incense. Proverbs 27:9 (NLT)*

*As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend. Proverbs 27:17 (NLT)*





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## 1. God designed me for FRIENDSHIP and COMMUNITY.

*Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. Likewise, two people lying close together can keep each other warm. But how can one be warm alone? A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (NLT)*

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## 2. Friendships are RECIPROCOL.

*There are "friends" who destroy each other, but a real friend sticks closer than a brother. Proverbs 18:24 (NLT)*

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*The righteous choose their friends carefully, but the way of the wicked leads them astray. Proverbs 12:26 (NIV)*

## 3. God has given me the GIFT of friendship.

*The heartfelt counsel of a friend is as sweet as perfume and incense. Proverbs 27:9 (NLT)*

*As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend. Proverbs 27:17 (NLT)*



**DISCUSSION  
QUESTIONS**  
May 12, 2024



## **[CONNECT]**

Share one of your greatest memories around you and friends as you were growing up. Why were your friends so special and important to you?

## **[ENGAGE]**

What stood out to you from this weekend's message?

## **[GROW]**

Why do you believe it is so critical for us to surround ourselves with great friends?

Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12. Have you ever been in a season, or a situation, where it took the help of one of more people to get you through?

Read the words of Jesus in John 15:13-15. Discuss the power and impact of what Jesus is trying to communicate to His followers about what it means to "lay down one's life..."

Have you ever had the awesome responsibility of surrendering and submitting your needs and wants and preferences so that you can love and support a friend?

There's a balancing act of giving and receiving in friendship. As much as we want people to befriend us, we also need to step out and befriend others. Share an experience of you stepping out to proactively make friends with someone.

Can you name at least three friends in your life you believe are "gifts" from God?

Read Proverbs 12:26. When have you given godly advice to a friend, or when has a friend given godly advice to you?

## **[LEAD (YOURSELF)]**

This week: Identify at least three people in your life that are your REAL friends. True, authentic, genuine friends. And then send them a text, or give them a call TODAY.

If you don't have three... what are you going to do about it? Do you have three people/friends that you could invite into a deeper friend-ship with you? Maybe they're in a life group that you need to begin attending. Maybe they're in the CR 12-Step. Maybe they're in one of our Bible Studies. Maybe they're on one of our volunteer teams just waiting for you to join...

BE A FRIEND!!