

Friending Series
“One Friend Away”

**Show me your friends and
I’ll show you your future.**

*Walk with the wise and become wise;
associate with fools and get in trouble.*

Proverbs 13:20 (NLT)

**You could be one friend away from
changing your destiny.**

When Saul arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to meet with the believers, but they were all afraid of him. They did not believe he had truly become a believer! Then Barnabas brought him to the apostles and told them how Saul had seen the Lord on the way to Damascus and how the Lord had spoken to Saul. He also told them that Saul had preached boldly in the name of Jesus in Damascus.

So Saul stayed with the apostles and went all around Jerusalem with them, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord.
Acts 9:26-28 (NLT)

3 Friends Everyone Needs:

A friend who makes you better. (Samuel)

*And the Lord said, “This is the one; anoint him.”
So as David stood there among his brothers, Samuel took the flask of olive oil he had brought and anointed David with the oil. And the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David from that day on.*

1 Samuel 16:12b – 13a (NLT)

*As iron sharpens iron,
so a friend sharpens a friend.*

Proverbs 27:17 (NLT)

A friend who helps you find spiritual strength. (Jonathan)

One day near Horesh, David received the news that Saul was on the way to Ziph to search for him and kill him. Jonathan went to find David and encouraged him to stay strong in his faith in God.
1 Samuel 23:15-16 (NLT)

A friend who tells you the truth. (Nathan)

*So the Lord sent Nathan the prophet to tell David this story:
“There were two men in a certain town. One was rich, and one was poor. The rich man owned a great many sheep and cattle. The poor man owned nothing but one little lamb he had bought. He raised that little lamb, and it grew up with his children. It ate from the man’s own plate and drank from his cup. He cuddled it in his arms like a baby daughter. One day a guest arrived at the home of the rich man. But instead of killing an animal from his own flock or herd, he took the poor man’s lamb and killed it and prepared it for his guest.”*

David was furious. “As surely as the Lord lives,” he vowed, “any man who would do such a thing deserves to die! He must repay four lambs to the poor man for the one he stole and for having no pity.”

Then Nathan said to David, “You are that man!”
2 Samuel 12:1-7a (NLT)

An open rebuke is better than hidden love! Wounds from a sincere friend are better than many kisses from an enemy.
Proverbs 27:5-6 (NLT)

SO WHAT?

**If you want that kind of friend,
You need to be that kind of friend.**

Growth Group Questions

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. Who was your best friend from Childhood? How did you meet, what did you have in common?

Who was your best friend in High School, College, as adults? What causes transitions from one person to another as your closest friend?

2. What friend from your past changed the course of your life?

3. Re-read Acts 9:26-28. Who is a friend that stood by you and encouraged you when you were under attack? What happened?

4. Re-read Proverbs 27:5-6. When has a friend told you something hard that you needed to hear? How did you respond?

5. We need friends who will make us better, help us find spiritual strength, and tell us the truth. Who fulfills those roles for you?

Which kind of friend are you lacking most right now?

6. What is your next step to develop the relationships with the kind of friend that you are lacking?