



Webster's Dictionary defines friend as "a person whom one knows and with whom one has a bond of mutual affection". When hear the word "friend" a number of people come to mind, some of us think of a small, tight knit group or people we spend all our time with. Others think of multiple large groups of people who we invest time in. No matter who you are, the word friend means something to you, so before we jump into this lesson answer these questions:

1. What does the word "friend" mean to you?
2. What does friendship look like in your life?
3. What is hard about friendship?
4. When you think ahead to college, what are your expectations of friendship? Be honest.

If we are called to model Christ with our lives, that includes modelling His example of friendship. Take some time as a group to read these passages and note what we learn about friendship through the example of Christ:

John 13:34-35

Colossians 3:12-14

Discuss:

1. What do you learn about friendship through these verses?
2. Based off of these scriptures, do you think that your friendships model the example we find in the Bible?
3. How does scripture shift your expectations for friendship?

Leader Tip: have the students write down characteristics or attributes of friendship that they see in those verses. It may help them stay more engaged and it gives them an even more direct interaction with scripture.

In a sermon from Tim Keller he maps out the 4 C's of friendship, they are:

Constancy

Carefulness

Candor

Counsel

Discuss:

1. What do you think that each of these means within the context of friendship?  
\*\*take time to look up and define these terms
2. How do the 4 C's differ from what the world tells your friendship should look like?
3. Take some time to think about the lies you believe about friendship and share them with the group, for example, people believe that friendship should be easy, convenient, self-serving, self-promoting, etc.
4. Christ's example is always what is best rather than what is easy. How do you see that in the 4 C's given by Keller?
5. Be honest, have you ever had friendships that hit the 4 C's? Have you ever been the kind of friend who offers others the 4 C's?

6. Christ calls us to do to others as we would have them do unto us, so in other words, to have good friends you should be a good friend. How does this idea make you feel? Do you think you are being the kind of friend that you want to have?
7. How are you pursuing a friendship with Jesus?
8. When you look to college what kind of people do you want to surround yourself with? What kind of friend do you want to be?

Pray:

that the Lord would help you to be the friend that you are wanting others to be for you. Spend time thinking and praying about seeking quality friendships over a quantity of friendships.