

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 02 Mar.....Proverbs 1:1-19..... Seek Wisdom's Ways
- 2) 09 Mar.....Proverbs 1:33-3:8..... Learn Wisdom's Benefits
- 3) 16 Mar.....Proverbs 8:1-9:18..... Listen To Wisdom's Invitation
- 4) 23 Mar..... Proverbs 10:11;12:17;18:21;25:26;31..... Guard Your Speech
- 5) 30 Mar.....10:11;13:14;19:20;22:24;26;28;21;27;28.....Don't be a Slacker
- 6) 06 Apr.....3:11;13:15;16: 20;21;22;23;28;30..... Financial Responsibility
- 7) 13 Apr.. 3;10;11;13;14;15;16;17;18;19;20;22;25;26;27 .....**Godly Friendships**
- 8) 20 Apr..... Mark 14:32 – 16:8.....Amazed by the Resurrection
- 9) 27 Apr.....Proverbs 20; 23; 29; 31..... Avoid Addictions
- 10) 04 May.....Proverbs 5-6..... Moral Purity
- 11) 11 May.....Proverbs 31:10-31..... Treasure Mothers
- 12) 18 May..... Song of Songs 1:1-5:1..... Righteous Romance
- 13) 25 May..... Song of Songs 5:2-8:14..... Invest in the Best

INTRODUCTION

- If a friend confesses to you that they cheated on their spouse, what should you do?
- If a friend breaks confidence with you and shares a secret about your past, what do you do?
- Is it appropriate to have "gay" friends & attend their gay weddings?
- What does the term "Friend" really mean? Is it a friendly co-worker, a casual acquaintance, or a trusted confidant, or all the above?
- For this lesson, we will consider not a fair-weather friend, but a trusted confidant, someone who sticks closer than brother

Passage	Comments
Mighty Friendships in the Bible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Adam &amp; Eve</b> – They treasured their relationship over and above God's friendship with them</li> <li>• <b>David &amp; Jonathan</b> – Their love for each other was better than a love of women .....2Samuel 1:26</li> <li>• <b>Jesus &amp; John</b> – Jesus loved (agape) John over the others..... John 13:23; 19:26; 20:2 (phileo); 21:7, 20</li> <li>• <b>Paul &amp; Barnabas</b> – Fellow laborers for the Gospel</li> <li>• <b>Aquila &amp; Priscilla</b> – Husband &amp; wife dynamo team</li> </ul>
Proverbs 22:24-25; 17:14, 19; 26:21; 25:19; 13:20; 14:22	<p><b>Consider Consequences</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>22:24-25.</b> Choose your friends wisely. We all have a tendency to pick up bad habits quicker and easier than picking up good habits from our friends                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <b>Illustration:</b> If standing on a chair, is it easier to pull someone up to your level or to be pulled down off the chair?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>13:20.</b> If you want to be wise, hang around the wise; if you want to be foolish, hang around the foolish</li> <li>• <b>Consider this:</b> We are encouraged to be friendly with sinners for the purpose of witnessing to them (Luke 7:34), BUT we are discouraged from being sociable with backslidden Christians for the purpose of shaming them into repentance (1Cor 5:2)</li> </ul>
14:17,29; 15:18; 16:32; 19:11, 19	<p><b>Cultivate Patience</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to kill a friendship: Be angry, unloving, disloyal</li> <li>• Being a Christian we need to go the extra mile to reconcile, and be friendly to the unfriendly</li> <li>• 14:29. A person who has patience is understanding when a friend needs to "blow off steam," BUT...</li> <li>• <b>19:19.</b> If you rescue a fool or an angry person once, you will have to do it again, and again – So be wise</li> </ul>
3:3-4; 16:6; 20:6; 10:12; 11:17; 15:17; 17:17;	<p><b>Communicate Loyalty and Love</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christians are a vulnerable lot. We must show ourselves friendly to the unfriendly and risk being taken advantage of, of being slapped in the face, stabbed in the back, and having things stolen from us – So that we can seek reconciliation with them ..... Luke 6:29</li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
18:24; 27:9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <b>Illustration.</b> For a Jew to be slapped in the face was akin to someone breaking off a friendship (no kiss on the cheeks); BUT to offer the 2<sup>nd</sup> cheek would convey – "Hey, I consider our friendship very valuable, so I offer you my other cheek as a 2<sup>nd</sup> chance to reconcile – to kiss &amp; make-up"</li> <li>• <b>10:12.</b> Love covers over all wrongs/sins ..... 1Peter 4:8</li> <li>♦ This doesn't mean we gloss over our friend's sins as nothing happened, but we stand ready to forgive when asked, and stand alongside to help</li> <li>• 18:24. A man with too many friends comes to ruin, But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.</li> </ul>
Satan initially attacked Man's friendship with God; and he is now attacking same-sex friendships	<p>Friendship and intimacy between a Husband &amp; a Wife is paramount for a marriage to be enjoyable as God meant for it to be.</p> <p>For a husband to be "friendly" with another woman, and for a wife to be "friendly" with another man often spells danger.</p> <p>BUT, women need to have some deep friendships with other women; and men need to have some deep friendships with other men (of a non-sexual nature), AND young boys need to develop friendships with other boys; and girls with other girls to grow up socially, physiologically, and biblically healthy.</p>

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- Remember. God wants to call each of us "friends" which means we need to show ourselves friendly, loyal, accessible, trustworthy
  - ♦ Have we spent time with God this week?
  - ♦ Have we shown kindness to our loved ones and strangers?
  - ♦ Have we sacrificed any possessions (time, money, effort) to further God's Kingdom?

NEXT WEEK: Mark 14-16. Amazed by the Resurrection.

