



BROKEN: FRIENDS FOR THE BROKEN

SESSION EIGHT | NOVEMBER 15 & 16

The focus this week is book four, *"Friends for the Broken"*. It is quite possible that in the course of the series you have been developing new friendships. I hope so. This book will help you consider what a 2:00 AM friend (or even more, a "Level Four" friend) looks like. It will also help you identify the characteristics and steps to pursue in finding such a friend in your own life.

Watch the Video Summary of This Week's Sermon at www.christchurchil.org/broken under the Study Guide tab

Share with each other something about a best friend from before you were 18 years old. You could share:

- A funny story about something you did
- Some of the characteristics that you admired most in your friend
- How you first met
- What you liked to do together.

Anything you want to share in 2 minutes or less.



QUESTIONS | BOOK FOUR

1. Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 to help you shape an answer. How would you define a friend? What is the value of a good friend? In what ways is life improved when we have solid and caring friends to do life with?
2. Consider the diagram of friendship found on p. 24. Do you agree with the levels of friendship and the distinctions made about types of friends? Is there anything you think needs clarification or changing? Can you picture people from your life that fit in the various levels? Are you able to identify some friends even in the "bull's eye" regions? (Many probably will not.)
3. Read John 13:34, Romans 12:10, Galatians 6:2, Ephesians 4:32 and Hebrews 10:24. What is common about all of these verses? In what ways does this demonstrate the necessity of friendship in order to live a Christian life?
4. Mike made a distinction between a "fireman" friend and a "general contractor" friend. Do you remember that distinction? (p. 27) What is the difference between the two? How would you describe the difference between a 2:00 AM friend and a Level Four friend?
5. Assuming many people no longer have the depths of friendship they may have had growing up, what are some of the ways you would suggest someone begins growing a deep adult friendship? Consider the suggestions on p. 53-57, and then add more ideas from the group.
6. Mike added an additional chapter on friendship with God. After reading that chapter, do you feel like a friendship with God is possible? Is this something you want, have or are experiencing? Do you have next steps in mind for how you can initiate or continue to grow this friendship?

Practice being friends: Pair off in your group with 2-3 other people you think you can trust and feel reasonably comfortable with. Take some time (about 6-10 minutes) and in these "micro-groups" ask each person 1-2 of the questions found on p. 58-61. Be kind to each other. Practice listening well without judgment or criticism and be caring for the person as they answer you.