



GROUP STUDY GUIDE

WEEK OF JANUARY 21, 2024 | RELATIONSHIPS TO DEVELOP

WARM-UP QUESTION

When you were a child, who was your first best friend? What did you like to do together?

DISCUSS

Start your discussion by sharing what stood out to you from Sunday's message. Were there any new insights or key takeaways for you?

Read Matthew 20:20-28

- What is James and John's mom really asking Jesus? What does her question show about her motives and heart posture?
- What is Jesus' response to the question? What does His answer teach us about God and His character?
- How do the rest of the disciples respond to the question? What does that tell you about their motivation and heart posture? How have you seen this heart posture play out in your own life?
- Read verses 25-27 again. How does Jesus describe the world? How are we called to be different?
- What is counterintuitive about Jesus' statement in verse 28? How do His words impact the way you view Him?
- If we pursue our relationships from a place of serving others, how would that change our relationships? What is one relationship that you can serve better this week?

Read Genesis 2:18-25

- What stands out to you in these verses?
- The word "helper" translates to "companion who completes what he's lacking". How does this definition change the way you view this verse?
- Where do you see emotion in this passage? How do those emotions add context to the text?
- Why is it significant that the man and woman felt no shame? How does shame impact relationships? Can you think of a relationship you've had that was impacted by shame? Were you able to break free from it? If yes, how? If not, what obstacles have hindered you?

We see examples of friendship throughout the Bible. Read a couple of the examples below or look up other examples that come to mind. What stands out to you about these friendships? What can we learn from them to apply to our relationships today?

- 1 Samuel 20 – David & Jonathan
- 2 Kings 2: 1-15 – Elijah & Elisha
- Ruth 1:1-18 – Ruth & Naomi



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RESPOND

- Based on what you just discussed, what do you think God is prompting you to do in response? When will you do it?
- Pray together as a group for the specific goals or areas of struggle that came up in your discussion. Thank God for revealing more of who He is, and ask Him to help you apply what He's prompting you to do this week.