



together
Life is better connected.
with friends
in circles
around a table
laughing

Digging Deeper

Faith Lives from Friendship

Week of June 24, 2018

These Digging Deeper questions can be used the week following the Sunday message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your family or Connect Group discussions.

Message Recap:

Read John 15:15

Nothing is more complex than the relationship of finite to infinite, seen to unseen and sinful to holy. And yet Jesus clarifies everything (John 14:6). God sent Jesus so we could be His friends (Mark 1:17). It's just relationship and at the base of relationship is friendship. But in the Kingdom of God, it's not "friendship" as a light, throw-away thing, it's friendship as an eternal foundation for life "together" instead of life "apart". Jesus ends relational poverty (read John 15:9, John 13:34b, John 20:21). Faith lives from friendship: Accept your acceptance and offer your friendship!

Pray

Lord, thank you for loving us!
Thank you for being a friend to us.
We pray that we would understand how we have been extended grace through Your Son and that we would extend that grace to others through our friendship. We pray that we would not overcomplicate forming relationships and that we would remember that we just have to do life together, be with each other and love one another.

Getting Started

- Talk about how your first childhood friend and how you came to be friends.
- How has that relationship changed as you have gotten older?

Digging Deeper

1. Discuss what you think it means that Jesus wants to be your friend. Have you accepted His friendship?
2. How does our acceptance of Jesus affect how we love others?
3. How does knowing Jesus change our acceptance of one another and open the door to friendship?
4. Read John 15:15. Why was it significant that Jesus called us His "friends" instead of His "servants"? Compare and contrast those two kinds of relationships.
5. Have you ever lived in relational poverty? What did that feel like? Did it change? How?
6. What are some avenues that you can use to change relational poverty—both personal and through the Church at Severn Run?
7. What are some real ways that you are, or that you will share that gift of relationship with others?
8. Discuss how this concept of relationships can change the world.

Living Jesus

We allow our own needs and desires complicate what we think friendship should be. We forget our own acceptance through Jesus; how he called us "friends" instead of His "servants". We should allow Jesus to bring clarity to our complicated relationships through grace and love. Consider your relationships and where they've gone right and where they went wrong. Then invite Jesus into those relationships. Remember that you are not alone. God is with you.

What's Your Story?

Have you started a new relationship with Jesus? Have you developed a relationship with someone else that allowed you to share the love of Jesus? We'd love to know and share your story on our website to encourage other Jesus followers to create deeper relationships too!

Go to SevernRunner.info and choose the Stories tile. Then follow the link in the middle of the page to share your own story!