



Part 1 – A Family of Friends

INTRODUCTION— In search of friends like me

Our different starting points for relationship:

1. Behavioural/Practical
2. Creative/Artistic
3. Experiential/Emotional
4. Intellectual/Philosophical
5. Relational/Communal
6. Individual/Ideal

The Fam – God’s vision for community

Genesis 1-2; Matthew 6:9; Ephesians 3:14-19; 2 Corinthians 6:11-12

1. Parents have families
2. A parent’s servant leadership brings security
3. Diversity teaches us other-centeredness
4. Time, close proximity, and shared experience creates a life-long bond

Look to the Book: Lessons from a shepherd

John 10:1-16

1. Babysitter/hired help versus family member
2. Ownership means I care about everything and am willing to sacrifice for those I love and serve
3. Caring for someone means I will move from a group setting to a one-on-one setting to provide the support someone needs

Take Outs: I’ll have that to go please...

1. To spiritually mature means I increasingly become other-centered.
Ephesians 4:11-16; Philippians 2:1-11
2. Understanding the power of the two-letter word “My” can change how I look at all my relationships.
Matthew 3:16; Philippians 4:1; 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12, 17-20
3. If I have moved beyond spiritual adolescence then I first need to start initiating deeper relationships.
2 Corinthians 6:11-12; 1 Corinthians 4:14-17

CONCLUSION – Lessons from Lego



HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS

Warming Up...

1. In the message we outlined six relational approaches that are common starting points for friendships. Which one (or two) is your most natural starting point for the qualities you are looking for in a friend? What hobbies or interests do you look for when seeking out friendship?
2. Does your experience in your own family tend to make you feel more positive or more negative towards the idea of cultivating family style relationships?

Look to the Book...

3. Read John 17:20-26. What strikes you about this final prayer of Jesus on the night he was crucified? What different priorities has Jesus given to his followers and of those priorities, where would you rank “deep spiritual friendships” as a priority from Jesus’ point of view? How do you think the church from your experience has done with this priority? What barriers (cultural, emotional, religious) get in the way of people fostering deep spiritual friendships?
4. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12. What inspires you about Paul’s approach to investing in deep spiritual relationships? What qualities do you see here you would like to integrate into your relationships? What rewards do you think Paul experienced from investing in this way in his relationships?

So What?...

5. Use the Lego illustration: How many connectors do you think you have in your life—4, 6, 8, or 12? How many spaces do you have open or are you full?
6. What one relationship might you be able to start to apply the principles of ownership and intentional investment described in the message? What initial steps might you be able to take this week?
7. Pray for God to help each member to more deeply know God as Father to experience his deep love, and have a deeper awareness of his desire for a loving family where each person experiences deep spiritual friendship.