



You Asked - August 16, 2026

Message Recap

Friendship is one of God's greatest gifts, yet genuine friendship has become increasingly rare. Through the story of David and Jonathan, we discover that biblical friendship is much deeper than shared interests or shared seasons. Real friendship is built around a shared pursuit of God, celebrates others without jealousy, protects one another's reputation, strengthens faith during difficult seasons, and ultimately points us to Jesus...the Friend who chose us first.

Icebreaker / Personal Reflection

- **Icebreaker:**

Share with the Group your earliest memory from a childhood friendship.

- **Reflection:**

What part of the message resonated with you the most?

Discussion Questions

1. What is the difference between friendships built on convenience (work, school, hobbies, kids, etc.) and friendships built around pursuing Jesus together? Why does shared direction create deeper friendships?
2. Why can someone else's success sometimes be difficult to celebrate? What helps us genuinely rejoice when God blesses another person, even if we're still waiting on something ourselves?
3. Pastor Stephen said, "*Real friendships are carried into rooms you're never in.*" Why is protecting someone's reputation such an important part of biblical friendship? What are practical ways we can do that?
4. What does it look like to help someone "find strength in the Lord" instead of simply encouraging them? Has someone ever done that for you?
5. Which of these areas challenges you the most right now?
 - Initiating friendships
 - Celebrating someone else's success
 - Protecting a friend's reputation
 - Encouraging someone spiritually
 - Showing up during someone's difficult season

For Additional Study

Read John 15:12-17

Jesus calls His disciples friends and reminds them that He chose them first. Every healthy friendship begins with understanding the friendship we've already been offered through Christ.

Questions

- What stands out to you about the way Jesus defines friendship?
- Why is it significant that Jesus chose us before we ever chose Him?
- How does our friendship with Jesus shape the way we build friendships with others?

Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

These verses remind us that we were never meant to do life alone.

Questions

- Which benefit of friendship in this passage speaks to you the most right now?
- Why do you think isolation is so common even though we're more connected than ever?
- What is one intentional step you could take this semester to build deeper Christ-centered relationships?