

**ULC Sermon Study Resource**  
**Summer Wisdom: Wisdom for Friendship**  
**Pastor Gabe**  
**June 14, 2020**

**Prayer:** Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

**Icebreaker:** Think of a friendship/an instance in a friendship that has greatly impacted your life and share!

**Reading:** Proverbs 17:17, 18:24, 27:5-6,10,17

**Outline:**

- I. The necessity of friendship (Prov. 17:17)
  - a. God elevates the unique and essential bond of friendship-- affection and devotion to someone through thick and thin. Our friendships can shape who we are more than family.
  - b. Having friends who draw near like family in adversity is a fundamental human need.  
**Q: What does "adversity" mean in this context?**
- II. The practice of friendship (Prov. 27:5-6, 9-10, 17)
  - a. Being a good friend requires presence, empathy, and candor: be there for your friends, be vulnerable with them, and speak the truth in love, even when it's uncomfortable.
  - b. Faithfulness in these things is difficult, but it's a great place to start in building a strong friendship. "A good friend always lets you in and never lets you down."  
**Q: Based on this text, how can we differentiate between friends and enemies?**
- III. The strength to be a friend (Prov. 18:24)
  - a. Friendship with Christ enables us to be the friends we're called to be. We need the strength of our friendship with God, who made us, redeemed us, and is at work inside us.
  - b. By trusting in Jesus' ultimate act of friendship on the cross, our relationship with God is restored. This "ultimate friendship" with God shapes all other friendships we have.  
**Q: Is it bad to have lots of friends?**

**Reflection/Application Questions:**

- 1) Think of the good friends in your life. How do they exemplify good friendship?
- 2) What have past/current conflicts in your relationships taught you about being a good friend?
- 3) Of presence, empathy, and candor, which comes easiest to you? Which is an area for growth?
- 4) Is there anyone in your life God is calling you to be a friend to?
- 5) How can you grow in your friendship with God this week?

**Suggestions for further study:**

- Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 **Q: How do the verses also relate to emotional aspects of friendship?**
- 1 Samuel 18:1-5, 20:1-42 **Q: What does this story tell us about being a friend?**
- John 15:1-17 **Q: How does our relationship to Christ affect our other relationships?**

**Closing Prayer:** *Lord Jesus, thank you for showing us what true friendship looks like. There is no greater love than one who lays down his life for his friends, and You laid down Your life for each of us. Thank you for Your friendship. Thank you for being present in our lives, empathizing with what it is to be human, and for speaking the truth in love to us. Teach us to do these things for each other and to be faithful friends. We need You, Jesus. May we walk with You always. In Your name we pray, Amen.*