



**Northland Christian Church
Group Discussion Guide
For the Week of June 27, 2021**

Use the questions below as a springboard for discussion. Do not feel like you have to answer every question. These are intended to help spark discussion. Refer to as needed. Ultimately we want God's answers, not man's opinions. Always land where God lands. (ex: Where do we see that in the Bible?) Give grace. Give time for growth. Don't force it.

Connect

- What is your favorite great story of friendship?
- When have you been blessed by a great friend? Who's been a great friend to you in the past?

Engage the Bible - Read **1 Samuel 18:1-4; 19:1-3.**

The Context

Real Friends

We all have days, weeks, seasons, when our soul is not doing fine. In fact, it's the very opposite of fine. It's in shambles and we just keep trotting along, with the majority of us feeling as if we have no one to turn to in the midst of the shambles.

Statistically, more than 60% of adults feel lonely, as if they don't have anyone whom they can share the burdens of life with. As if there is no one to rejoice the small victories with...As if there is no one to share in life giving laughter with... We often feel alone in a room full of people. But there's hope for every single one of us this morning.

There is hope for those who feel alone, there is hope for those who feel as if no one cares, there is hope for those who have good relationships, but not great friendships.

There is more to community than drive-by friendships.

There is more to doing life with people than simply saying hey from across the street, than chatting at our kids games, than nodding at each other while you're in line at the Pad.

For David, he was about to go into a season where he needed real friendships more than ever. He was going to go through things in this next season that required more than just someone he could share get a few meals with and chat with in the line at the grocery store. David met Jonathan, the son of then King Saul. And they intentionally began a lifelong friendship that served them both well, and changed both of their lives for the better.

It's what real friendships do actually. As Matt shared:

- **Real friendships are intentional and God focused.**
- **Intentional and God focused relationships result in life change.**

Discuss & Apply

1. What do you think are the 3 most important traits of a great friend?
2. Why is it so easy to feel alone in such a connected world?
3. Why can it be so difficult to make real and deep friendships? Why is there so much fear in being known? What can help us overcome this? Help others overcome this?
4. How can we help be a connector of people into deep and real friendship? How does pursuing God first help this to happen?
5. Read the following passage and discuss how these help us understand more about what God sees as real friendship. It's not a wedding or marriage passage at all: though it surely applies to every relationship. **1 Corinthians 13:4-7**
6. How have you seen the characteristics in 1 Corinthians 13 lived out in life?
7. How can we help each other implement the action steps that Matt gave us:
 - Get to know the people who sit in the same row as you on Sundays.
 - Invite them out to lunch after service. This is something we have been trying to do more of this summer after church.
 - Ask someone how their soul is doing and actually listen.
 - Ask someone how you can be praying for them, and then pray for and with them.

End your group time in prayer.