Good Friend
Taking Initiative

Talk It Over

Message Summary

Many of us underestimate how deeply the people around us shape the quality and direction of our lives. The quality of the friends you have reveals the kind of friend you are. Great friendships rarely happen accidentally—they grow when someone takes a step first. Jesus did that with Peter, Andrew, James, John, Matthew, and others. And He calls us to do the same.

Key Scriptures

Mark 1:16–17 (NIV)
"As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 'Come, follow me,' Jesus said, 'and I will send you out to fish for people.'"

Mark 1:19–20 (NIV)
"When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him."

Mark 2:14 (NIV)
"As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax collector's booth. 'Follow me,' Jesus told him, and Levi got up and followed him."

Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NIV)
"Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken."

Start Talking

Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Growing up, what's one of the best memories you had with a friend—funny, meaningful, or random?
- Watch this week's Sermon Refresh: Here (Available Monday's)

Start Thinking

Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Please read the Key Scriptures on the left.
- What stands out to you about the way Jesus initiated friendship and community with His disciples?

Start Sharing

Choose a question(s) to create openness.

- Who in your life has modeled great friendship to you? What made them a great friend?
- Friendship starts with taking initiative. Where do you find it hardest to take the first step with people?
- When you reflect on your closest relationships, what do they reveal about the kind of friend you are?
- What is one intentional step you can take this week to strengthen or build a friendship—an invitation, a text, a coffee, a conversation?

Start Praying

Jesus, thank You for calling us friends. Help us follow Your example by taking initiative, pursuing people with love, and building the kinds of friendships that bring life. Grow us into the kind of friends who help others flourish. Amen.

Start Doing

Take one step of intentional friendship this week: invite someone to lunch, send an encouraging message, reconnect with someone you've drifted from, or include someone new.

If your group pauses for the holidays, begin thinking together about who you can invite to join you in January as your group relaunches.