Good Friend
The Friend You Need

Talk It Over

Message Summary

Your friendships shape the trajectory of your life more than almost anything else. Scripture teaches that the people you walk with determine who you become. David's life shows that everyone needs three kinds of friends: those who call out God's purpose in you, those who strengthen your faith, and those who tell you the hard truth. The right friends lead you toward God's best; the wrong ones can derail your future.

Key Scriptures

1 Samuel 16:11–13 (NIV)
"So he asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?'
'There is still the youngest,' Jesse answered. 'He is tending the sheep.'
Samuel said, 'Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives.'
So he sent for him and had him brought in… Then the Lord said, 'Rise and anoint him; this is the one.'
So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him… and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David."

1 Samuel 23:15–16 (NIV)
"While David was at Horesh in the Desert of Ziph, he learned that Saul had come out to take his life.
And Saul's son Jonathan went to David at Horesh and helped him find strength in God."

2 Samuel 12:7 (NIV)
"Then Nathan said to David, 'You are the man!'"

Start Talking

Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Who is one friend (past or present) who has had an outsized impact on your life—for good or for bad?
- 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 do these Scriptures reveal about why the right friendships are essential for spiritual growth?

Start Sharing

Choose a question(s) to create openness.

- When you think about the friends you spend the most time with, what words would you use to describe how they influence you?
- Ashley said, "Show me your friends and I'll show you your future." Where have you seen that be true in your own life?
- David had a Samuel (clarified purpose), Jonathan (strengthened), and Nathan (spoke truth). Which type of friend do you feel you're missing most right now:
- What is one friendship in your life that might be holding you back—or one you need to invest in more intentionally?
- What is one step of initiative you can take this week to build or strengthen the friendships you truly need?

Start Praying

Lord, thank You for the gift of friendship. Give us the courage to pursue the right people, the humility to receive truth, and the wisdom to walk with those who help us become more like You. Shape our future by shaping our friendships. Amen

Start Doing

Identify one person you need in your life—Samuel (purpose), Jonathan (faith), or Nathan (truth).

Take one intentional step: initiate a conversation, plan a coffee, join a group, or set a boundary with a friendship that is pulling you away from God.