

Fellowship with the brethren - Lesson 1

Icebreaker: If you were stranded on an island and there was no one else there, what animal would you want to have with you and why?

Teaching:

Example of the coal in the fire. When taken out, a red-hot coal will go cold, but placed back in the fire, and it glows ever hot again!

Pr 27:10 Do not forsake your friend and the friend of your father, and do not go to your brother's house when disaster strikes you—better a neighbour nearby than a brother far away.

Here is a charge given to be faithful and constant to our friends, our old friends, to keep up an intimacy with them, and to be ready to do them all the offices that lie in our power. It is good to have a friend whom we can be free with, and with whom we may communicate counsels. It is not necessary that this friend should be a relation, or any way akin to us, though it is happiest when, among those who are so, we find one fit to make a friend of.

It is good also to have a special respect to those who have been friends to our family: Is there someone like that in your family, or someone you think of as a true brother?

Pr 18:24 A man *that hath* friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend *that sticketh* closer than a brother.

Pr 27:17 ¶ As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.

Ec 4:12 Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

2Sa 23:16 And the three mighty men brake through the host of the Philistines, and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem, that was by the gate, and took it, and brought it to David:

Mt 18:19 "Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.

20 For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

Ac2:1 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.

Outcome:

- I (We) have a responsibility to befriend others.
- I (We) have a responsibility to temper others
- There is strength in numbers
- God's favor is found in numbers

Situational Question. When was a time in your life that you really felt included in a group (like one of the guys)? Why?

Experience Question: What is an obstacle that keeps you from deeply becoming part of a group?

Application Question: How can God help you to include yourself in this group?

Prayer: for these needs, and ministry as needed.

Fellowship with Father God and the Lord Jesus – Lesson 2

Did God Create Evil? (Focus on the fact that WE ARE REDEEMED FROM EVIL, and not unworthy beings never to receive from God!) Ge 1: 31 And God saw *every thing* that he had made, and, behold, it was very good.

Ice Breaker: What is the one thing that you just can't stand when you want quiet?

We are valuable to God –

We receive when we seek Him with faith and with all our heart –

Matthew 6:26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?

27 Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?

28 "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labour or spin.

29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these.

30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

31 So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'

32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.

33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

We are God's friend and family– Jas 2:23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

Heb2:11 Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers.

God loves us deeply - Jer 31:3 The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness.

We are included in God's plan! - Jer 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.

13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

Heb10:19 ¶ Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus,

20 by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body,

21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God,

22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

Outcome:

- **We are valuable to God**
- **We receive when we seek Him with faith and with all our heart**
- **We are God's friend and family**
- **God loves us deeply**
- **We are included in God's plan**

Situational Question. Where is a place that you go to be alone?

(Message) Isa 6:1 ¶ In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Master sitting on a throne—high, exalted!—and the train of his robes filled the Temple.

2 Angel-seraphs hovered above him, each with six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two their feet, and with two they flew."

3 And they called back and forth one to the other, Holy, Holy, Holy is GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies. His bright glory fills the whole earth.

4 The foundations trembled at the sound of the angel voices, and then the whole house filled with smoke.

5 ¶ I said, "Doom! It's Doomsday! I'm as good as dead! Every word I've ever spoken is tainted—blasphemous even! And the people I live with talk the same way, using words that corrupt and desecrate. And here I've looked God in the face! The King! GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies!"

6 Then one of the angel-seraphs flew to me. He held a live coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar.

7 He touched my mouth with the coal and said, "Look. This coal has touched your lips. Gone your guilt, your sins wiped out."

Experience Question: When was a time when you felt that God really loved you?

-OR-

You felt the incredible presence of God in a life changing way?

Application Question: What stops you or tries to prevent you from having a very close relationship with God? How will you overcome this?

Prayer: for these needs, and ministry as needed.

Being a friend to Myself – Lesson 3

Lesson Point: We need to like ourselves for who God created us to be.

How we live is Important to God: Phl 1:27 ¶ Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel

28 without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God.

Icebreaker: If you could buy your own Christmas or birthday present, what would that be?

Giving is honorable—Of our time, money, & services. But is there such a thing as too much? Compare... What are the differences between these Scriptures?

Mt 25:1 ¶ "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.

2 Five of them were foolish and five were wise.

3 The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them.

4 The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps.

5 The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

6 "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'

7 "Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps.

8 The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.'

9 "'No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.'

AND

Mt 6: 38 ¶ "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.'

39 But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.

40 And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well.

41 If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.

42 Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

There are times to say no (based on whether that action will do you or the other person any good) and there are times to say yes (when you know God will bless you and the person in need is genuine). In every situation, people at times have trouble saying "no", and some have trouble saying "yes". Which do you have the most trouble with? Resisting, or giving?

What do these scriptures say about how YOU should feel about YOU?

Mt 19:19 honour your father and mother,' and 'love your neighbour as *yourself*.'"

Ro 8:14 because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

15 For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."

16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

Ps 139:13 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

Mt 6:21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Situational Question. Everyone dreams of doing something great for God. What is it that you dream about doing in life? For God?

Experience Question: What stops or hinders you for fulfilling your dream?

Application Question: What is the most important thing that you need to do in order to get back on track with the dream God has given you?

Prayer: for these needs, and ministry as needed.