

Friends Series Vision Doc

May 11-May 25/26

Tagline: Building the life-giving connections we long for

Focus: Developing friendships that are Christ-centered and fulfilling

Feel: Encouraging and helpful

Why this series now: With the summer season coming, it's a time we often associate with spending time with friends so we want our guests to see how to make friends for belonging, fulfillment, and lasting and strong communities.

Response Areas: No

Invite Pitch: On a scale of 1-10, how fulfilling are your friendships right now? With 10 being the most satisfying, think about that number for a moment. A recent study asked that same question to 6000 people and a startling 70% answered 5 or less. That means A LOT of us are pretty dissatisfied with how fulfilling our friendships are, and we just don't feel as close with our friends as we want. At the same time a recent Pew report on friendship revealed that 61% of us agree that having close friends is extremely or very important for people to live a fulfilling life. So on the one hand we know how important deep bonds of friendship are, but on the other we can't seem to get there. And even more, we actually know more people than in any other time in history yet we feel more unknown than ever. As we head into summer, we're digging into how to develop meaningful, fulfilling and life-giving friendships where belonging, community and true connection come first. God designed us for it - let's find out how to build it together.

Memory Verse: A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity. Proverbs 17:17

Weekly Topics and Content Goal:

Week 1, May 11/12, What is a Friend?, Mother's Day-Ben

Focus:

Week 2, May 18/19, Child Dedications-Ben

Focus:

Week 3, May 25/26, Memorial Day-Andy

Focus:

Series Goals:

Goal:

- Weekly resource available via text with spiritual and practical advice:
 - Week 1 - 5 Great questions for connecting conversation
 - Week 2 - 5 Practical ways to delight/bleed your neighbors

- Week 3 - 5 great activities to create more connection over the holiday (Memorial Day)
- Week 4 - 5 Summer events to look ahead connect with church.

How will we measure this?

- Number who request it weekly - 900
 - Engagement with content on app

Ministry Calendar and Holidays:

May 12 - Mother's Day
 May 18/19 - Child Dedications
 May 21 - Intern Graduation
 May 22 - End of Student Semester
 May 25 - Summer Groups Directory Opens
 May 26 - Group Leader Training
 May 27 - Memorial Day
 May 28 - Group Leader Training
 June 2 - Group Leader Training

Series Resources:

Next Steps

Frientimacy by Shasta Nelson

Family Ministries

Students:

Group content for families to use about widening community and experience moments together -

<https://store.thinkorange.com/collections/parents/products/parenting-beyond-your-capacity-connect-your-family-to-a-wid>

Kids:

Practicing Friendship: <https://theparentcue.org/practicing-friendship/>

Encouragement cards people can send to parents/caregivers - a resource for adult friends to encourage each other.

<https://parentcuestore.org/collections/gifts/products/parent-encouragement-cards>