



BOLD

Week 2/4: Bold Friends

April 18, 2021



LEADER PREP

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

For students to really think about what they want out of their friendships, and to consider the kind of friend they want to be,

SCRIPTURE

Phil 1:30 & 2:2 NLT

THINK ABOUT THIS

Friendships are some of the most powerful influencers in your student's lives. Who your student's hang out with matters. We want our students to be friends with others who don't know Jesus yet, but it's also important to have friends in their lives who do follow Jesus and can encourage them in their faith. Some of your students may have these friends, for some of your students this small group may be their only Christian friends their age. Encourage your students to pursue Christian friendships – and encourage your small group to be great Christian friends for each other. Get your group to brainstorm ways you can grow closer out of small group and encourage your students to set up times to hang out with each other: because having bold, Christians friendships is essential in our faith journeys!

This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here. Let the students and the Holy Spirit guide the conversation, too.

CONVERSATION GUIDE

MAIN POINT

Bold friendships are friendships that point us towards Jesus.

GET THEM TALKING

If you could choose, which fictional or celebrity BFFs groups would you want to be a part of?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What qualities make a good friendship?

READ PHILIPPIANS 1:30 & 2:2; answer the following:

2. What do you notice about Paul's relationship with the people of Philippi?
3. Paul listed things here like, "You have seen my struggle", "agree wholeheartedly with each other", "work together with one mind and purpose". Would you say your friendships look like this?
4. "Who you hang out with is who you will become" is a powerful phrase. Are the people you are friends with now the kind of people you want to become? Why or why not?
5. Do you remember the 4 'goals' of friendship from the talk? What were they? (*Have fun, to belong, trust, point one another back to Him*)
6. The most important of these is to point one another to Jesus? What does this actually look in our friendships?
7. How can a friendship actually help you grow in your relationship with God?
8. If you don't have a friendship like that right now, how can you pursue one?

NEXT STEP & PRAYER GUIDE

Encourage your students to pray for their friendships and to pursue the 4 friendship goals: that they would have fun, find belonging, experience trust, and grow in their relationships with God because of them. Close your time together in prayer.

SCRIPTURE FROM THE TALK

PHILIPPIANS 1:30 & 2:2 (NLT)

“We are in this struggle together. You have seen my struggle in the past, and you know that I am still in the midst of it...² Make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose.”

ECCLESIASTES 11:9-10 (NLT)

“Young people, it’s wonderful to be young! Enjoy every minute of it. Do everything you want to do; take it all in. But remember that you must give an account to God for everything you do. ¹⁰ So refuse to worry, and keep your body healthy. But remember that youth, with a whole life before you, is meaningless.”

MATTHEW 11:28 (NLT)

“Then Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.”

PROVERBS 17:17 (NLT)

“A friend is always loyal, and a brother is born to help in time of need.”

JOHN 13:34-35 (NLT)

“So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. ³⁵ Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”

1 CORINTHIANS 5:12-13 (NLT)

“It isn’t my responsibility to judge outsiders, but it certainly is your responsibility to judge those inside the church who are sinning. ¹³ God will judge those on the outside.”