

WEEK 3

MIDDLE SCHOOL DISCUSSION GUIDE



THIS WEEK

BIG IDEA

God can help us choose our friends wisely.

BIBLE

Romans 12:9–12; Psalm 1:1–6;
Proverbs 4:23

ABOUT THIS WEEK

but it's not as easy as we think. This week, we'll hear from Paul about some qualities we can look for — and develop for ourselves—when looking for quality friendships. His words remind us how God can help us choose our friends wisely.

Let's Break the Ice // Optional Discipleship Moment Follow-Up:

- Think about your closest friend. What is one thing about them that makes them enjoyable to be around?
- **Optional: Last week we challenged one another to have a conversation with someone who's faith we admired. How did that go?**

Bible Study:

- Read Together: As a group, read Romans 12:9-12
 - Telos Bible Page Number: Page 1111

Discussion Questions:

- Before we ask any specific questions, what stands out to you from that passage and why?
- Paul talks about sincere love and honoring each other over ourselves. What do you think it means to love someone sincerely (without pretending or hiding who you really are)?
- Have you ever had a friendship where you felt like someone was pretending to be something they're not? How did it affect your relationship?
- What do you think of when you hear the word "boundary"?
- Why do you think it's important to set boundaries in friendships?

Make It Real:

- Let's work together to create a list of 3 real boundaries that it would be good to have in a godly relationship. Try not to only think about friendships, but consider dating, parents, teachers, etc.

Group Activity:

Pass out the reflection handout and give everyone time to complete it on their own. When you're done, ask if anyone wants to share their answers.

Prayer

Share Requests:

- Ask for any prayer requests or praises to celebrate together.

Group Prayer:

- Ask God to help give us the strength to set clear, healthy boundaries in the relationships that need it.
- Ask God to send us Godly friends who help shape us into the image of Jesus.

(Grow Deeper – Optional) Discipleship Moment:

Christ-Centered Conversation: This week, pray and ask God if there are any relationships in your life that aren't healthy and ask how He wants you to handle that relationship moving forward.

Partner Check-In: Pair students up and have them commit to checking in with their partner either sometime during the week or during your next gathering.