



TODAY'S MAIN POINT

Healthy relationships help us become more like Jesus.

TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE(S)

Proverbs 27:17; Proverbs 13:20

TEACHING GOAL

Over the last two weeks, students learned that Jesus' way applies to every relationship and that healthy relationships require healthy boundaries. This week brings it all together by helping students see that the people they spend the most time with influence who they are becoming. God designed relationships to help us grow in wisdom, character, and faith—not pull us away from Him.

Let's Break the Ice:

- What's one quality you appreciate most in a friend?

Transition:

The Bible says the people we spend time with don't just affect what we do—they affect who we become.

Bible Study:

- Read Together: As a group, read Proverbs 27:17 (NIV)
 - *Telos Bible Page Numbers: pg. 635*

Discussion Questions:

- What does it mean for iron to "sharpen" iron?
- Does sharpening sound easy or hard? Why?
- Why do you think God uses friendships as a way to help us grow?

Leader Add-On (Optional):

Briefly reference **Proverbs 13:20** and summarize:

Walking with wise people helps us grow wise.

Make it Real:

- What are some ways friends can help us grow in good ways?
- What are some ways friends can make it harder to make wise choices?
- How can you be a friend who helps others grow?

Optional prompt:

Do friends act more like **mirrors** (reflecting who you already are) or **windows** (showing you who you could become)?

- Why do you think choosing who you spend time with becomes even more important as you get older?

LEADER NOTE: If students bring up dating naturally, affirm it and say something like: “Yeah—that’s something we’ll talk more about when you’re older or that you should bring up with your parents, but the same wisdom starts now.”

(GROW DEEPER - OPTIONAL) Discipleship Moment:

Wise Direction Challenge:

Invite students to silently think about:

- One person who helps them make good choices
- One way they can be a better influence this week

Challenge them to practice intentional friendship by:

- encouraging someone
- making a wise choice even if friends don’t
- choosing kindness when it’s not popular

Encourage them to pray:

“Jesus, help me walk with people who help me grow—and help me be that kind of friend too.”

Prayer

Share Requests:

Invite students to share prayer requests or praises.

Group Prayer:

Pray that God would give students wisdom in their friendships and help them choose relationships that lead them closer to Him.