

# RELATIONSHIP Goals

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Owasso First Assembly of God

2.27.22

## Relationships matter—The Importance of Friends

God uses three relationships to illustrate His relationship with us.

Marriage

Family

Friends

Proverbs 9:1, 10 (NIV) <sup>1</sup> *Wisdom has built her house; she has set up its seven pillars.*

**The seven pillars signify the vastness of wisdom and the strength of wisdom.**

<sup>10</sup> *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. True awareness of God brings proper response to His majesty.*

The entire chapter is devoted to the emphasis of seeking wisdom, avoiding folly, and finding this wisdom in the Lord.

1. God has provided friends as another source of strength and encouragement.
2. One of man's greatest needs is companionship.
3. The Bible focuses on relationships from Genesis to Revelation.  
Abraham, Moses, David, Jesus and the disciples,
4. Friends have an astounding influence on your life.  
*"Show me your friends and I'll show you your future."*
5. Friends will either help or hinder your growth and development in all areas of life.
6. The greatest friendship you will ever experience is with God.

Ecclesiastes 4:9–12 (NIV) <sup>9</sup> *Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: <sup>10</sup> If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. <sup>11</sup> Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? <sup>12</sup> Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.*

### 1. Friends add value to your life

1. Friends double your joy and divide your sorrow.
2. Friends help you up when you fall down.
3. Friends provide emotional warmth or meet a physical need in a cold, cruel world.
4. Friends guard your back.
5. Friends encourage your growth.

## 2. Friends add quality to your character

The key is to **become** the friend you want to have. It has been said that if you will learn to listen to others you will have many friends. I think if you learn to care for others you will have innumerable friends.

1. Friends **influence** your life for good or bad.

**Proverbs 13:20 (NIV)** *Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.*

**Proverbs 22:24 (NIV)** *Do not make friends with a hot-tempered person, do not associate with one easily angered,*

2. We need friends who are **loyal**.
3. We need friends in time of **adversity**.

**Proverbs 17:17 (NIV)** *A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.*

4. We need friends who **believe the best**-not assume the worst.

**1 Corinthians 13:7 (NIV)** *Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*

5. We need friends who **encourage** our faith in God.

My Christian living class \_\_\_\_\_

My community group \_\_\_\_\_

My Wed. night grow group \_\_\_\_\_

## 3. Jesus is a friend who will ALWAYS be near you

**Proverbs 18:24 (NIV)** *One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.*

**John 15:12–15 (NIV)** <sup>12</sup> *My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.* <sup>13</sup> *Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.* <sup>14</sup> *You are my friends if you do what I command.* <sup>15</sup> *I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.*

1. Jesus is a **reliable** friend.
2. A servant's relationship is one of **duty** but a friend's relationship is one of **decision**.
3. Accept Jesus as your **friend**, your **Savior**, and your **Lord**.