



The Joy of True Friendship

Welcome to the NewDay Worship Service today! We are thankful for an opportunity to draw close to Jesus today.

Worshipping Our Lord Together

Praying Together

Prayers of Thankfulness: Reflect on all that God has provided and hundreds of children, individuals, and families we have impacted over the past 13 years. Praise Him for His provision to us!

Asking Guidance & Direction: Request that God prepare the path and the place where he is calling NewDay to continue to impact our local community with Jesus message and love.

Pray for our Leaders: That the staff, the leadership team, and other teams would have discernment and wisdom as we listen to God and seek to honor Him with our lives.

The better part of one's life consists of his friendships."
Abraham Lincoln

READ: The following verses on friendship help us to realize how important it is to develop those relationships.

Have you experienced the kinds of friendships listed below?

"There are "friends" who destroy each other,
but a real friend sticks closer than a brother." (NLT)

"Some friendships do not last,
but some friends are more loyal than brothers." (GNT)
Proverbs 18:24

How did Jesus model true friendship?

Jesus was present. He spent time with His friends and disciples during His time living and walking among us on earth (John 3:22). He took the time get to know and understand them (Luke 10:28-42). He walked alongside them doing life and ministry together. He shared meals with those He was closest to and enjoyed their fellowship (John 12:1-3). Jesus was intentional with His presence, which grew trust and sincerity among His friends. He put in the effort to know them, help them, cherish, and care for them. He called them his "friends". Then he tells them what this means...

**"The greatest love you can have for your friends
is to give your life for them."**
John 15:13

What does it mean to "give your life" for another?

*"So many people walk around with a meaningless life.
They seem half-asleep, even when they're busy doing things they think are
important. This is because they're chasing the wrong things.
The way you get meaning into your life is to devote yourself to loving others,
devote yourself to your community around you, and devote yourself to
creating something that gives you purpose and meaning."*

Mitch Albom, Tuesdays with Morrie

REFLECT: How do you develop friendship that are life-giving and fulfilling?

Someone sent me a note that said,
"Gospel saturated friendships with selfless
and humble servant-mindedness bring life
not only to our friends, but to us as well."

What does that look like in everyday life?



Henri Nouwen was at one of the lowest points in his life when he realized that he lacked genuine friendship. He began to change that by investing his life in those around him. This is what he learned...

"Friendship is one of the greatest gifts a human being can receive. It is a bond beyond common goals, common interests, or common histories. It is a bond stronger than sexual union can create, deeper than a shared fate can solidify, and even more intimate than the bonds of marriage or community. Friendship is being with the other in joy and sorrow, even when we cannot increase the joy or decrease the sorrow.

It is a unity of souls that gives nobility and sincerity to love.

Friendship makes all of life shine brightly.

Blessed are those who lay down their lives for their friends."

Henri Nouwen

Why is the statement below true for those with strong friendships?

Wounds from a friend can be trusted ... Proverbs 27:6

Respond & Apply: Individual & Small Group Discussion Guide

Who are those people that have shown you the qualities of friendship you long to have? What did they show you?

Are there some people you would like to develop a deeper friendship with? Are you willing to begin the process of working on that friendship?

What are you willing to give up to have closer friends?

PRAYER FOR OUR NEWDAY STAFF & LEADERS

We have been looking at where God might be leading us as a congregation to meet each week for worship and ministry. We are in conversations with various churches, places, and ministries in our city. Our goal is to find where we might best collaborate to succeed in our mission, vision, and values. Please continue to keep us in prayer as we pursue these conversations over the next few months in preparation for this fall. Thank you!

NewDay Envisioning Our Ministry Values

- 1. We are a community that has a passion to serve others.**
- 2. We are a community that longs for deeper life relationships with God and others.**
- 3. We are passionate about investing in children, youth, and families.**
- 4. We are a people who have a desire to be led by and experience the power of the Holy Spirit in everyday life.**

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(Online giving: <http://www.newdaycov.org/give>)