

BUILDING JOYFUL FRIENDSHIPS

1 Thessalonians 2.7-20

THE DIFFICULTY OF FRIENDSHIPS

1 Thessalonians 2.7-12

Paul gives us a powerful picture of his love and heart for the Thessalonian people. But obviously his friendship with them didn't start this way. What are some things that hinder us from building and cultivating this kind of love and devotion towards one another?

Time and Priority: With work, marriage, and kids, we tend to quickly let our lives revolve around these things. Though very good things, we must not neglect the other important ways God has designed our lives to find health and joy.

Fear and Unwillingness to be Known: "Vulnerable," "intimate," and "transparent" are words that scare many people. Men and women both can fear these things, but for different reasons. Insecurity and pride will rob us of many great life-altering things, including having deep, joy-filled friendships.

Self-Centeredness: The bottom line is that we often make our lives about ourselves, rather than others. Even though the Great Commandment is to love God and love people, we tend to focus on our own selves more than anything.

Ecclesiastes 4.9-12 // Proverbs 12.25, 17.17

PRACTICAL WAYS TO PURSUE FRIENDSHIPS

But like Paul's picture of a nursing baby, our friendships must start small, and we must see them as worthwhile investments.

Beginning: C.S. Lewis says that a friendship begins when you "see" and value something in the same way someone else does. It could be as simple as sports or movies. But from that point, we have to work hard and make the effort and not give up quickly. As the Gospel softens our hearts and we fight discouragement, cynicism, criticism, and being judgmental, we become affectionate towards others, ready to give them our own lives, as Paul said.

This is true friendship when there is one heart in two bodies.

-C.H. Spurgeon

Going Further: But we also want to go further than sports and movies.

Proverbs 27.17 // Hebrews 3.13, 10.24, 25 // 1 Thessalonians 2.9-12, 17-20

- Join a Community Group. Don't let excuses get in the way.
- Get one on one time. Couples can hide behind each other. Kids distract.
- Share your life story and your testimony.
- Be the first to "jump."
 - Share your scariest moment, your greatest fear, your greatest desire
- Confess sin and ask for prayer
- Make a regular plan for Fight Club
 - Pick a regular time
 - Pick a book or study
 - Determine to keep on track
 - Start with the Root List
 - Memorize Scripture together

NOTES:

This Week's Scripture to Memorize:

Zephaniah 3:17

The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

Will You Pray With Us?

Follow along with our daily prayer requests by downloading the **PrayerMate App**, available on both **iOS** and **Android** phones. Go to our website for detailed instructions on how to subscribe to the app to be praying with us daily, as well as reading through our **2 Year Bible Reading Plan**.

ARE YOU NEW HERE?

WELCOME TO LIFE MISSION CHURCH!

We'd LOVE for you to fill out the green **Connection Card** on your seat to let us know you were here today. You can drop it in the offering at the end of service or take it to one of our teammates in a **Green Shirt** at the **Connection Booth** outside - we'd love to give you some welcome information. Feel free to grab some food or coffee out in the courtyard and hang out. We hope you'll **join us next Sunday** and consider making us your church family.

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

If you've ever taken your child to one of our **Kids on Mission** classes, or enjoyed a cup of coffee after service, chances are there was a faithful servant behind each of those examples. Serving is one of the **most fun & rewarding ways we experience community** with our church family! **Fill out a connection card** to learn about the serving opportunities available today.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

The best way to **get connected** in the church is by joining one of our **Community Groups!** You'll forge friendships, be encouraged, and take the sermon deeper into your heart every week. **Sign up for a Group** on a **Connection Card** or visit the **Connection Booth**. You won't regret it!

GIVING

Gospel-centered generosity is motivated by a heart of thankfulness because of the sacrificial love God has already shown us. If you call **Life Mission** your home, you can place your gift in the offering baskets at the end of service, give online at lifemissionchurch.com/blog/give or mail a check to our PO Box. Thank you so much!

KIDS ON MISSION

Our **Kids on Mission** ministry has classes for **newborns - 5th grade**. Visit our website to read more about the vision and plan we have for our kids, including Pastor Jobey's heart for the ministry and his walkthrough of our curriculum. For questions about KOM email **Katie McGinty** at katie@lifemission.tv

JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS

Our **6th - 8th graders** worship with the adults and then head to the junior high room with their teacher and classmates for the rest of service.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Our **9th - 12th graders** stay in the service because we believe that it is critical for them to not "graduate the faith" when they graduate school. Our **High School Ministry meets on Thursday Nights @7PM at Casey & Amy Barnes Home in San Marcos**. For directions and/or questions about our student ministries, contact **Casey Barnes** at casey@lifemission.tv.

VISION: WHY DO WE EXIST?

We want to see God's glory known among the nations, to the least, last, and lost.

MISSION: WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO?

We need to make disciples who make disciples locally and globally, who are saved, equipped, and sent by the Gospel.

STRATEGY: HOW WILL WE DO IT?

By teaching people how to be rooted in the Gospel of God's glory through the Word of God, Prayer, and Gospel Community.

CONTACT US:

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[YouTube.com/LifeMissionTV](https://www.youtube.com/LifeMissionTV)

COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

Read **Ecclesiastes 4:9-12**. What stood out to you the most from Sunday's sermon?

Take a look at **2 Timothy 1:1-7**. What is Paul doing for Timothy? How is he affecting Timothy's heart and ministry? _____

Now jump to **2 Timothy 4:9-11**. What is Paul seeking here? _____

Read **Proverbs 10:11,20,21,31,32; Proverbs 18:21** and **Proverbs 27:6**. How can your words be used in friendship? Have you ever thought about how important your words are to friends? _____

Look at **Colossians 3:12-17** and **John 17:20-21**. How are our friendships and relationships used for God's glory? Other than these verses, what else does God use friendships for? Look back through the sermon notes for clues.

What are the things that prevent you from pursuing deeper and growing friendships? Time, priority, fear, discouragement...or something else? _____

Paul even compared his friendship with the Thessalonians with a nursing baby. What can you do to combat those things in order to give you the determination to feed and nurture friendships rather than get discouraged and give up easy? _____

Who are you actively pursuing as a growing and deepening friendship, and what do you think each friendship needs for deepened growth? Going deeper like having Fight Clubs? More laughter and fun? More challenging talks? _____

Take time this week and tell each person you wrote down what you would like to pursue more of with them. Together, come up with a plan for how you think you can make it happen.



LIFE MISSION
C H U R C H

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**Making Disciples Who Make Disciples Locally and Globally,
Who are Saved, Equipped, and Sent by the Gospel.**



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SUNDAYS AT 10AM

Life Mission Church Meets at Classical Academy High School
207 E Pennsylvania Ave, Escondido 92025

