

The Bible Study for the week of May 6th-12th

Reminder: This Study is in two parts. The first part is the lesson that will be discussed on Tuesday at 10:30 am. The 2nd part is THE GO DEEPER section for anyone who has more time or wants more reflection. These studies are to inspire and motivate you; the time invested is completely up to each person.

INTRO: Something hit me yesterday (5th) =Friendship. And not just a generic friend, but intimately known and loved. Last week was my introduction to Prayer and in essence, prayer is becoming and being intimately acquainted with God.....just like so many of you are with each other. So, this week is a look at ourselves, why we crave connections and what qualities make beautiful relationships. As we see how much relationships mean to us, maybe we can start seeing God in the same way.

PART ONE: Our Tuesday discussion...Please read Colossians 3:12-15. Below is a poem I received years ago and gives a great example of an intimate friend. As you read both, take note of the qualities.

I'm Glad I Became Friends with You by Kathleen King Richardson

Certain times come in your life when you notice just how much someone really means to you – simply because they have taken the time for you, to live, to love and smile with you, and hurt when you hurt.

Becoming friends with you – always having the freedom to tell you anything while feeling complete trust and comfort, knowing it is safe inside this circle we've built together – this is what makes our friendship the very best.

We have had our bad moments in which neither of us understood what the other meant, but somehow we seemed to find our way back to each other, always forgiving each other and gaining a greater respect for each other's views.

I have gathered such great memories of us, and I believe we have come so far together in this lifetime, through good and bad times, each of us making sacrifices along the way to keep our friendship going strong and forever alive.

As life continues on, I hope that you have many beautiful days ahead and that this friendship we share will grow richer and stronger with each passing moment.

REFLECTIONS:

1. Why is friendship important to you? How does intimacy reveal itself?
2. There are all types of friends. What do you value most?
3. Do you have a memory of when you saw God as your friend? What qualities did He show you?

PRAYER TIME: How can we, your church family, pray for you? What qualities would you like to improve on to strengthen your friendships?

PART 2: GO DEEPER through the week.....From the above readings, use your Bible's concordance on the qualities you would like to read about more i.e. Compassion, Kindness, Humility, Patience, Bearing with, Peace with God.

What else can we learn about Friendship; Think about how The Bible is woven with stories of God loving, creating and pursuing relationship with us:

1. God chooses us to be Friends: John 15: 9-17 and Gen. 12-When God and Abraham begin their journey.
2. Eccl. 4:8-12 is a great verse on why relationships are important.