

Friendship

Women's Bible Study by Vera Likhonin

Using the New King James Version of the Bible and the Chinese New Version (Traditional) (CNVT)

ICE-BREAKER QUESTIONS:

Think of a close friend, how did you first become friends? What did you do to become friends?

SUMMARY: Today we will look at what the Bible says about friendship.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Briefly discuss the following questions, without going too deep.

Q: What kind of characteristics does a true friend have?

Q: How can we lose a friendship?

Q: What can be done to restore a relationship?

BIBLE STUDY:

1. Why are friendships important?

Proverbs 18:1

箴言 18:1

A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; He rages against all wise judgment.

離群獨處的，只顧自己的心願；他抗拒一切大智慧。

Ecclesiastes

4:9-12

传道书 4:9-12

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up. Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; But how can one be warm alone? Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

二人勝過一人，因為他們一起的勞碌有美好的酬報。如果一個跌倒，另一個可以把他的同伴扶起來。但一人孤身跌倒，沒有別人把他扶起來，他就悲慘了。還有，二人同睡，就都暖和；一人獨睡，怎能暖和呢？有人能制伏孤身一人，如果有二人就擋得住他。三股合成的繩子，不容易扯斷。

2. How can we make friends?

Proverbs 18:24 A man who has friends must himself be friendly, ...
箴言 18:24 朋友眾多的人，終必彼此破裂，但有一位朋友，比兄弟更親密

Proverbs 22:11 He who loves purity of heart and has grace on his lips, the king will be his friend.
箴言 22:11 喜愛內心潔淨，嘴上有恩言的，君王要作他的朋友。

Proverbs 19:6 ... every man is a friend to one who gives gifts.
箴言 19:6 尊貴的人，很多人求他的情面；慷慨施贈的，人人都作他的朋友

3. List the characteristics of a true friend:

a.

Proverbs 17:9 He who covers a transgression seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates friends.
箴言 17:9 遮掩別人過犯的，得到人的喜愛；屢次提起別人過錯的，離間親密的朋友。

Ephesians 4:32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Colossians 3:12-13 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.

b.

Proverbs 27:9 Ointment and perfume delight the heart, And the sweetness of a man's friend gives delight by hearty counsel.

Proverbs 27:17 As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.

Proverbs 27:5-6 Open rebuke is better than love carefully concealed. Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.

c.

Proverbs 27:9 Ointment and perfume delight the heart, And the sweetness of a man's friend gives

delight by hearty counsel.

Proverbs 27:17 As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.

Proverbs 27:5-6 Open rebuke is better than love carefully concealed. Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.

d.	
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Proverbs 16:28 A perverse man sows strife, And a whisperer separates the best of friends.

Proverbs 11:13 A talebearer reveals secrets, But he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter.

e.	
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Romans 12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

1 Thessal. 5:11 Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

Job 6:1,14 Then Job answered and said: ... "To him who is afflicted, kindness should be shown by his friend, even though he forsakes the fear of the Almighty. ..."

f.	
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Proverbs 27:10 Do not forsake your friend and your father's friend, and do not go to your brother's house in the day of your calamity. Better is a neighbor who is near than a brother who is far away.

Galatians 6:2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Luke 6:31 And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise.

g.	
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Proverbs 17:17 A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

1 John 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

Romans 12:10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;

John 15:12 [Jesus said:] This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved

you.

h.	
Luke 6:30	Give to everyone who asks of you. And from him who takes away your goods do not ask them back.
Luke 6:38	Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.

4. List the kind of friends that we should not have.

- Proverbs 13:20 He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed.
- Proverbs 22:24-25 Make no friendship with an angry man, and with a furious man do not go, lest you learn his ways and set a snare for your soul.
- Proverbs 12:26 The righteous should choose his friends carefully, for the way of the wicked leads them astray.
- Psalms 1:1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

5. What can we learn from the following verses about being friends with God?

- John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.
- John 3:16-17 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.
- Romans 5:10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His

Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

John 15:14-15 [Jesus said:] You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

James 2:23 And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God.

Q: Is true friendship easy to find or rare? Why do you think that is?

End: Prayer

Proverbs 17:9 He who covers a transgression seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates friends.

箴言 17:9 遮掩別人過犯的，得到人的喜愛；屢次提起別人過錯的，離間親密的朋友。

- **Ephesians 4:32** And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.
以弗所书 4:32 要互相友愛，存溫柔的心，彼此饒恕，就像 神在基督裡饒恕了你們一樣。
- **Colossians 3:12-13** Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.
歌罗西书 3:12-13 所以，你們既然是 神所揀選的，是聖潔、蒙愛的人，就要存憐憫的心腸、恩慈、謙卑、溫柔和忍耐。13 如果有人對別人有嫌隙，總要彼此寬容，互相饒恕；主怎樣饒恕了你們，你們也要照樣饒恕人。

➤ B. _____

- **Proverbs 27:9** Ointment and perfume delight the heart, And the sweetness of a man's friend gives delight by hearty counsel.
箴言 27:9 膏油和香料使人心暢快，朋友真誠的勸勉也使人覺得甘甜。

- **Proverbs 27:17** As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.

箴言 27:17 鐵磨鐵，磨得鋒利；朋友互相切磋，才智（“才智”原文作“面”）也變得敏銳。

- **Proverbs 27:5-6** Open rebuke is better than love carefully concealed. Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.

箴言 27:5-6 坦白的責備，勝過暗中的愛。6 愛你的人加的創傷是出於忠誠；恨你的人卻與你連連親吻。

➤ C. _____

- **Proverbs 16:28** A perverse man sows strife, And a whisperer separates the best of friends.

箴言 16:28 乖謬的人散播紛爭，搬弄是非的離間親密的朋友

- **Proverbs 11:13** A talebearer reveals secrets, But he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter.

箴言 11:13 到處搬弄是非的，洩露祕密，心裡誠實的，遮隱事情。

➤ D. _____

- **Romans 12:15** Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

罗马书 12:15 要與喜樂的人一同喜樂，與哀哭的人一同哀哭。

- **1 Thessalonians 5:11** Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

帖撒罗尼迦前书 5:11 所以，你們應該彼此勸慰，互相造就，正如你們一向所行的。

- **Job 6:1,14** Then Job answered and said: ... “To him who is afflicted, kindness should be shown by his friend, even though he forsakes the fear of the Almighty. ...”

约伯记 6:1,14 於是約伯回答說：... 14 朋友應該憐憫灰心的人，因為他捨棄了對全能者的敬畏。

➤ E. _____

- **Proverbs 27:10** Do not forsake your friend and your father's friend, and do not go to your brother's house in the day of your calamity. Better is a neighbor who

is near than a brother who is far away.

箴言 27:10 你的朋友和你父親的朋友，你都不可離棄；在你遭遇患難的日子，不可進你兄弟的家。在附近的鄰舍勝過在遠方的兄弟。

- **Galatians 6:2** Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.
加拉太书 6:2 你們各人的重擔要互相擔當，這樣就成全了基督的律法。
- **Luke 6:31** And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise.
路加福音 6:31 你們願意人怎樣待你們，你們就應當怎樣待人。

➤ F. _____

- **Proverbs 17:17** A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.
箴言 17:17 朋友常顯愛心，兄弟為患難而生。
- **1 John 4:7** Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.
约翰一书 4:7 親愛的，我們應當彼此相愛，因為愛是從 神那裡來的。凡是愛人的，都是從 神生的，並且認識 神。
- **Romans 12:10** Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;
罗马书 12:10 要以手足之愛彼此相親，用恭敬的心互相禮讓。
- **John 15:12** [Jesus said:] This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.
约翰福音 15:12 你們要彼此相愛，像我愛你們一樣，這就是我的命令。

➤ G. _____

- **Luke 6:30** Give to everyone who asks of you. And from him who takes away your goods do not ask them back.
路加福音 6:30 向你求的，就給他；有人拿去你的東西，不用再要回來。
- **Luke 6:38** Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.

路加福音 6:38 要給人，就必有給你們的；並且要用十足的升斗，連按帶搖，上尖下流地倒在你們懷裡；因為你們用甚麼升斗量給人，就必用甚麼升斗量給你們。”

4. List the kind of friends that we should not have?

- **Proverbs 13:20** He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed.
箴言 13:20 與智慧人同行的，必得智慧；與愚昧人為友的，必受虧損。
- **Proverbs 22:24-25** Make no friendship with an angry man, and with a furious man do not go, lest you learn his ways and set a snare for your soul.
箴言 22:24-25 容易發怒的人，不要與他為友；脾氣暴躁的人，不要與他來往，25 免得你效法他的行徑，
- **Proverbs 12:26** The righteous should choose his friends carefully, for the way of the wicked leads them astray.
箴言 12:26 義人作自己鄰舍的引導；惡人的道路，卻使別人走迷。
- **Psalms 1:1** Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful;
詩篇 1:1 有福的人：不從惡人的計謀，不站罪人的道路，不坐好譏笑的人的座位。

5. What can we learn from the following verses about being friends with God?

- **John 15:13** Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.
约翰福音 15:13 人為朋友捨命，人間的愛沒有比這個更大的了。
- **John 3:16-17** For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.
约翰福音 3:16-17 “神愛世人，甚至把他的獨生子賜給他們，叫一切信他的，不至滅亡，反得永生。17 因為 神差他的兒子到世上來，不是要定世人的罪，而是要使世人藉著他得救。
- **Romans 5:10** For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.
罗马书 5:10 我們作仇敵的時候，尚且藉著 神兒子的死與他復和，既然復和了，就更要因他的生得救了！
- **John 15:14-15** You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.
约翰福音 15:14-15 你們若行我所吩咐你們的，就是我的朋友了。15 我不再稱你們為僕人，因為僕人不知道主人所作的事；我已經稱你們為朋友了，因為我從我父那裡聽見的一切，都已經告訴你們了。
- **James 2:23** And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” And he was called the friend of God.
雅各书 2:23 這正應驗了經上所說的：“亞伯拉罕信 神，這就算為他的義。”他也被稱為 神的朋友。

Q: From your personal experience, is it easy to have true friendships? or is it rare?
Why do you think that is the case?