

Connect: 40 Days of Growing Warmer and Stronger Together
September 3, 2023

An intentional 40-day season of spiritual and relational growth where we commit together to being available, energized, and equipped for the future.

*1 John 1:3, LB – We are telling you about what we ourselves have actually seen and heard, so that you may share the fellowship (**koinonia**) and the joys we have with the Father and with Jesus Christ his son.*

*1 Corinthians 1:9, ICB – God is faithful. He is the One who has called you to share life (**koinonia**) with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Ephesians 3:10, NLT – God’s purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

How to Build Healthy, God-Centered Friendships

1. God designed friendship to be _____

Colossians 2:6-7a, NCV – As you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so continue to live in him. Keep your roots deep in him and have your lives built on him.

Jude 1:20, NLT – But you, dear friends, must build each other up in your most holy faith.

Hebrews 10:24-25, NLT – Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

2. Be serious about _____

John 15:9, NIV – [Jesus said,] “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.”

John 15:12, NIV – [Jesus said,] “My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.”

John 15:17, NIV – [Jesus said,] “This is my command: Love each other.”

Romans 15:7, NIV – Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

Proverbs 17:9, NLT – Love prospers when a fault is forgiven, but dwelling on it separates close friends.

John 15:14-15b, NIV – [Jesus said,] “You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends...”

3. _____

Proverbs 20:6, NCV – Many people claim to be loyal, but it is hard to find a trustworthy person.

Three Ways to BUILD Trust

- _____

*Proverbs 17:17, LB – A true friend is always loyal, and a brother is born to help in a time of need.
Proverbs 19:22a, NLT – Loyalty makes a person attractive.*

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James 1:19, NIV – My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.

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*Romans 12:15, NIV – Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.
1 Corinthians 12:26, NIV – If one part [of the body] suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.*

Three Ways to BREAK Trust

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Proverbs 11:13, NLT – A gossip goes around telling secrets, but those who are trustworthy can keep a confidence.

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Proverbs 22:24-25, NLT – Don't befriend angry people or associate with hot-tempered people, or you will learn to be like them and endanger your soul.

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1 Corinthians 5:9-11, NLT – When I wrote to you before, I told you not to associate with people who indulge in sexual sin. But I wasn't talking about unbelievers who indulge in sexual sin, or are greedy, or cheat people, or worship idols. You would have to leave this world to avoid people like that. I meant that you are not to associate with anyone who claims to be a believer yet indulges in sexual sin, or is greedy, or worships idols, or is abusive, or is a drunkard, or cheats people. Don't even eat with such people.

4. _____

*1 Thessalonians 5:11, NLT – So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.
Proverbs 15:30, NLT – A cheerful look brings joy to the heart; good news makes for good health.*

5. _____

*Philippians 2:4, NCV – Do not be interested only in your own life, but be interested in the lives of others.
Matthew 7:12, NIV – So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.*