



GROW. PRAY. SERVE.

**SERIES: Relationships—Gaining Traction in Our Relationships**

*Message: “Let’s Be Frienemies”*

**PRAYER:** God, we praise you that you are a friend who sticks closer than family. Empower us now to be true friends and to build great relationships all the days of our lives. In the name of our best friend, Jesus, we pray. Amen.

**ICEBREAKER:** What do you look for in a real friend?

**INTRODUCTION:** Relationships are important. People are important. Yes, you can get somethings done better without the fuss and time of people and their individual particularities. But in the end, you are saying a lot of what you believe and who you are by the way you associate with others. Some of us are people-persons. They are energized by others. Others are task-oriented. Relationships get very tedious. We in fact need each other no matter what our makeup. If not for any other reason, it is to eliminate that chase of the cancerous independent spirit. For that in the end will condemn us. Let me close by asking some questions and making a few comments.

**GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. What kind of relationships have you built? Have you built a lone empire or established friends? If you have not consciously built friendships with those around you including your spouse, then unless you are a people person, you do not have them. You are not prepared for crisis. One day, you will discover how things do not fulfill you. What is your greatest challenge in building relationships, share it with your group?
2. Do you have that independent spirit? How can you breakthrough? God provides two guideposts. The way you play the game is more important than the game itself. (1) Never disobey and (2) Be loving. On a scale of 1-10 (1 being least, 10 being greatest), how obedient are you to God? How loving are you with and towards others?
3. What if you are a goal-oriented person and don’t inherently value relationships? The goal-oriented person will not naturally think much of building relationships. Everyone likes friends, but goal-oriented people can more easily ignore this need in their lives. Generally speaking, women are much better at relationships while men at performing tasks. Men typically think much of their work and are not very aware of the needs or situation about them. Those who are goal-oriented need to make relationships a priority. How much of a priority are your relationships? Share your thoughts with your group?

**CHALLENGE:** You might have been the victim of another person’s insensitivity. It might have happened when a person seemed so kind and helpful but later were rejected by him. Your contribution is ignored. You get no extra compensation for your extra work. These are difficult times. Pray and love your enemies. The person who uses you still needs to be loved. He is covered in darkness. God wants to use you to show love. Trust the power of God’s love.

**CHAMPION TIP:** Take time to pray for each group member and their fellowship with the group.