

## THE MAIN POINT

“A friend loves at all times” Proverbs 17:17

### Resources:

Relationships are difficult and from time-to-time, that difficulty may extend beyond what you can fix. In these moments, there is a place for professional Christ-centred counselling. If you find yourself in the place to need this, please contact, in confidence, Pastor Brynden at 204-832-4119 or send an email to bryndendevenny@oasiscc.ca.

### Suggested Bible reading for this week:

There are 31 chapters in the book of Proverbs. This month, try to read one per day. These words, written thousands of years ago, still speak truth today.

### NOTES + PRAYER REQUESTS:

---

---

---

---

---

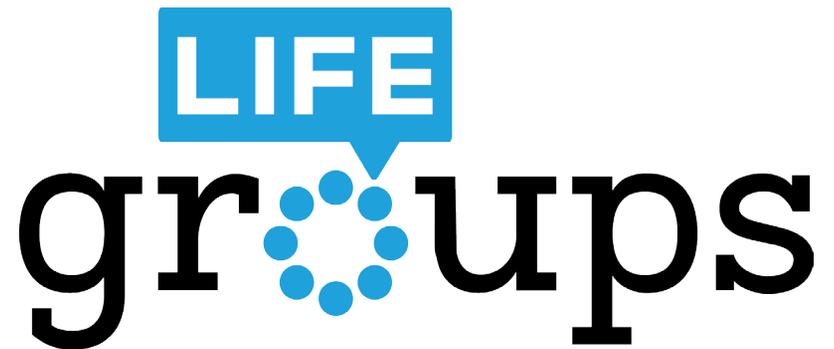
---

---

---

---

---



### Part 2: Better Than Family

Begin by watching the “Info for the Group” portion of the DVD and then here are a few questions to get you going:

- \_\_\_ What was your high and low from the past week?
  
- \_\_\_ As we continue in our series Starting Over, here is a question to get your conversation started this week, if you could push a reset button and go back to a stage of life and start fresh, what time would you go back to? (Childhood, high school, newly married, etc..)

## PLEASE WATCH THE DVD'S "MAIN SESSION"

### INTRODUCTION

2018 is kicking off and this series gives us an opportunity to start over. Using the book of Proverbs as our guide, we are looking at God's wisdom applied to four different areas of life. This week, we start by discussing the role that friends play in our lives.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Share with the group a time when you pressured someone, or someone pressured you, into something (good or bad) you may not have otherwise done.
2. When two people have deeply felt values in common, there is a greater possibility for true friendship. What commonalities (or traits) do you tend to seek out when looking for friends?
3. Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "...friendship does not ask 'do you love me?' so much as 'do you see the same truth.'" The greatest application of this truth is found when two people share a common belief in Jesus. Do you agree with this thought? Explain.
4. **Proverbs 27:17** says, "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." How does this verse form your friendships?
5. When we read **John 15**, we see Jesus explain what friendship ought to look like. Among other things, we see someone who sticks close by, someone who does the unthinkable for someone else, and someone who never lets you down. What gets in the way of you experiencing a friendship like this? What encourages you to find friendships like this?
6. Read **Proverbs 27:5-6**. We all need friends who encourage and support us. We also need friends who are willing to offer correction when it's needed. On Sunday, Dustin asked this question: "Are you humble enough to hear the truth that comes to you?" How would you respond?
7. In this week's teaching, Pastor Rick Warren gives five reasons to have "awesome" friends: **Spiritual growth** (Romans 1:12); **Emotional support** (Galatians 6:2); **Better health** (James 5:16); **Social enjoyment** (Genesis 2:18); **To reach your goals** (Ecclesiastes 4:9). Take time to discuss which ones have played an important role in your life. Which ones do you currently feel are missing?
8. The power of biblical friendship is that it can help people change. One of the easiest ways to do that is through encouragement. Share with the group an example of someone in your life you have encouraged OR someone that you should be encouraging. How can the group help you take that step?

### GOING FORWARD

Psychologist Henry Cloud says, "At our core we are relational beings. The human soul cannot prosper without being connected to others." We are called to love God and love people. What qualities make a great friend? What can you do to become that person? Most importantly, what can you do to invest in friendships that are wise and Christ-centered?

### BE SURE TO PRAY TOGETHER AS A GROUP...

\_\_ What are some things going on in your life that need prayer?