
Warnings about who is influencing you:

Why Some Friends Bring Us Down:

Psalm 1:1; Proverbs 12:15, 29:5, 22:24; 1 Corinthians 15:33; Galatians 6:1-2

They give us bad advice.

They encourage us to make bad decisions.

They lower our standards.

3 Important Friendship Questions:

Psalm 1:2-6; John 15:4-15; Proverbs 27:5-6, 27:17; Psalm 119:105; 2 Timothy 2:15

Who do I get my advice from?

Who do I look to for approval of my choices?

What is my ultimate guide: the World or the Word?

Be friendly to everyone, but choose wisely who you are friends with.

Godly Influence looks like :

Ephesians 6:1-4; Proverbs 13:24, 14:26, 22:6; Deuteronomy 6:1-20; Mark 3:24-25; Joshua 24:14-15; Ezekiel 18

An example to follow.

A home (Relationship) to run to, not run from.

Priority over your schedule.

The benefit of the doubt.

Turn a message into a conversation. Consider joining with a friend to review the message and dig deeper into God's word through the following questions.

You may have heard it said, "To have a friend you need to be a friend." The Book of Proverbs has a lot of practical wisdom about how to be a friend. Jot down what each of the following verses says about how to be a good friend.

Proverbs 12:18

Proverbs 17:9

Proverbs 17:17

Proverbs 18:13

Proverbs 27:5-6

Which of these attitudes or actions comes most naturally to you? Which is most challenging for you?

A great example in the Bible of a strong friendship is the story of David and Jonathan, the son of King Saul. Despite stressful circumstances, they were able to encourage and support each other through tough times. As you read about their relationship in the verses below, what specific actions, attitudes or principles can we learn about developing strong friendships?

1 Samuel 18:1-4

1 Samuel 19:1-7

1 Samuel 20:12-17

At times, we've all found ourselves focusing too much on performance or status (i.e. GPA, MVP, net worth, etc.) instead of character. How did Jesus see beyond the performance and focus more on character in Luke 21:1-4?

Make a list of performance or status issues that can trip us up in judging ourselves or others?

Looking back at the list you created above, are there any you've ever found yourself focusing on too much? If so, explain.

Questions are powerful. They can lead us to understanding and self discovery, along with showing value in the other person's perspective. But they can also demean or judge depending on how we ask. As you look at the two types of questions below, how would you describe the kinds of questions that are typically asked at your work or with your friends and family? Can you think of any reasons why you may find yourself at times on the "judger" side?

JUDGER	LEARNER
What's wrong?	What works?
Who's to blame?	What am I responsible for?
How can I prove I'm right?	What are the facts?
How can I protect turf?	What's the big picture?
How can I be in control?	What are my choices?
How could I lose?	What's useful about this?
How could I get hurt?	What can I learn?
Why is that other person so clueless and frustrating?	What is the other person feeling, needing, wanting?

21 DAY READING PLAN

- DAY 1 - JOHN 1:1-51
- DAY 2 - JOHN 2:1-25
- DAY 3 - JOHN 3:1-36
- DAY 4 - JOHN 4:1-54
- DAY 5 - JOHN 5:1-47
- DAY 6 - JOHN 6:1-71
- DAY 7 - JOHN 7:1-52
- DAY 8 - JOHN 8:1-59
- DAY 9 - JOHN 9:1-41
- DAY 10 - JOHN 10:1-42
- DAY 11 - JOHN 11:1-57
- DAY 12 - JOHN 12:1-50
- DAY 13 - JOHN 13:1-38
- DAY 14 - JOHN 14:1-31
- DAY 15 - JOHN 15:1-27
- DAY 16 - JOHN 16:1-33
- DAY 17 - JOHN 17:1-26
- DAY 18 - JOHN 18:1-40
- DAY 19 - JOHN 19:1-42
- DAY 20 - JOHN 20:1-31
- DAY 21 - JOHN 21:1-25