

## GROW TOGETHER

Proverbs 18:24, 17:17, 27:10, 27:5-6, 27:9, 27:17, 28:23, 29:5, 25:17, 25:20, 26:18-19, 27:14, 13:20

### MAIN IDEAS FROM THIS WEEK

1. THE PROFILE OF A TRUE FRIEND
  - COMMITMENT
  - CANDOR
  - CONCERN
2. THE TRANSFORMING POWER OF FRIENDSHIP
3. THE HOPE FOR THE UNFRIENDLY

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS – Pick one or two of these to talk about as a group

1. What stood out to you most from this week's message? Why?
2. Building deep friendships can sometimes feel like an impossible task. What are some of the greatest barriers you face that keep you from true friendships? Are there any barriers that you think are unique to our time and culture?
3. According to Proverbs, a true friend is someone who is deeply committed to you, relentlessly candid with you and personally concerned for you. Have you ever had a friend like this? Where do you have the most difficulty in *being* this kind of friend to others? What are some ways that we can forge this sort of friendship here in our small group?
4. A true friend is candid with you. They will speak the truth to you even when it is difficult. On the flipside, Proverbs 29:5 says that flattering someone is like laying a trap for them. What is flattery? Why is it so dangerous?
5. Over time, tight-knit communities can easily become unhealthy and only concerned for themselves. How do we build deep friendships without becoming unwelcoming or uncaring towards those outside our friend groups?
6. Human relationships are complicated. What does wisdom look like when you are dealing with a toxic or abusive person? What could it look like to be a true friend to someone who is acting in that way?
7. What is unique about Christian community? What sets it apart from other tight-knit communities such as other religions, social clubs, sports teams, military units, gangs, etc.?

**A TRUTH TO TAKE WITH YOU:** We can be the type of community God has called us to be. Not because we are good or smart or hard working, but because of Jesus. He is the perfect friend. He is the friend of sinners. And He can take sinners like you and me and transform us into true friends.