

QUESTIONS for discussion and meditation :

MONDAY

Look back over the different kinds of friends in your notes. Put a star next to each kind that you have right now. Write the names of those friends on your notes. Now think of ways to honor those friends. Can you thank them? Encourage them with a prayer or note? Do it this week. Spend time thanking God for your friends.

TUESDAY

Look back over that list of friendship types again. Which types do you need, but lack right now? Put a circle next to those. Now pray that God will bring those people into your life, and that your eyes will be open for them. Thank God that Jesus called us his friends! Spend time refocusing on Him today!

WEDNESDAY

Look back over that list of friends one more time! Which type of friend are you? You may be different types to different people. Put an asterisk next to those, and write the names of people to whom you are that kind of friend—or people for whom you would like to be that kind of friend. Pray that God would show you ways to be the right kind of friend to those around you. Again, thank God that Jesus called us his friends!

THURSDAY

Read Exodus 18:14-18. In this story, Moses is super-busy helping people. What does his father-in-law Jethro point out to him? What advice does he give? Do you need to hear this advice? Ask God to help you realize that you can't do it alone, and to bring people into your life that can help you. Pray for eyes to see the options you have for help!

FRIDAY

Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12. What truths about friendship do you see? Thank God for your friends. Think of a friendship that needs to be restored. Ask God for wisdom and strength to do that. Pray for our services this weekend as we start a new series in Psalms!

FOCUSED

ON FRIENDS

RENÉ SCHLAEPFER

JULY 28 & 29

At the end of Colossians, Paul lists his support team, the friends who helped in his ministry. No one can succeed in life all alone—not even Paul.

SIX TYPES OF ESSENTIAL FRIENDSHIPS

1. _____ friend

...whose hand is always there.

Tychicus will tell you all the news about me. He is a dear brother, a faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. I am sending him to you for the express purpose that you may know about our circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts. Colossians 4:7-8

Greet those in Laodicea, and **Nympha** and the church meets in her house. Colossians 4:15

2. _____ friend

...whose burden I bear.

He is coming with **Onesimus**, our faithful and dear brother, who is one of you. They will tell you everything that is happening here. Colossians 4:9

3. _____ friend

...who is with me through it all.

My fellow prisoner **Aristarchus** sends you his greetings...
Colossians 4:10a

4. _____ friend

...who God redeems after a fall.

...as does **Mark**, the cousin of Barnabas. You have received instructions about him; if he comes to you, welcome him.
Colossians 4:10

5. _____ friend

...who remembers my need.

Epaphras, a member of your own fellowship and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends you his greetings. He **always prays earnestly** for you, asking God to make you strong and perfect, fully confident that you are following the whole will of God. I can assure you that he **prays hard for you** and also for the believers in Laodicea and Hierapolis. Colossians 4:12,13

6. _____ friend

...who helps me succeed.

Our dear friend **Luke**, the doctor... Colossians 4:14a

I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand. Remember my chains.
Grace be with you. Colossians 4:18

KEY VERSE OF COLOSSIANS

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, **set your hearts on things above**, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **Set your minds on things above**, not on earthly things.
Colossians 3:1,2

What you _____
is what you _____.

RESOURCES used in preparation of this message:

Alan Loy McGinnis, *The Friendship Factor*

Rob Salvato, *Walk, Talk, & Pray*, Sermon given at Calvary Vista, Dec. 7, 2014

John MacArthur, *With A Little Help From My Friends*, Sermon given at Grace Community Church, Dec 5, 1976

STARTING NEXT WEEKEND! 5 WEEKS IN THE PSALMS

