

Detox - January 17th - Relationships - Troy Knight

TALK IT OVER

Key Scriptures:

Proverbs 1:10
Proverbs 13:20

Start reading

Proverbs 1:10

My child, if sinners entice you, turn your back on them! They may say, "Come and join us. Let's hide and kill someone! Just for fun, let's ambush the innocent! Let's swallow them alive, like the grave; let's swallow them whole, like those who go down to the pit of death. Think of the great things we'll get! We'll fill our houses with all the stuff we take. Come, throw in your lot with us; we'll all share the loot." My child, don't go along with them! Stay far away from their paths. They rush to commit evil deeds. They hurry to commit murder. If a bird sees a trap being set, it knows to stay away. But these people set an ambush for themselves; they are trying to get themselves killed. Such is the fate of all who are greedy for money; it robs them of life.

Proverbs 13:20

Walk with the wise and become wise; associate with fools and get in trouble.

Start **talking**. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Share a time where you and your friend(s) got in trouble when you were a child.

Start **thinking**. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Pastor Troy said that habits, thoughts and friendships are the easiest way to determine our future. Do you like your future prospects today? Of those 3 areas, which one could use the most detoxification?
- Read Proverbs 1:10-19. What are this person's friends trying to get him to do? What do they fail to see?
- Have you ever sabotaged your future with bad friendships?
- Read Proverbs 13:20. Discuss a time when wise friends have influenced your life in a positive way.
- Share a friendship that included a time of discontentment and/or disagreement that has been overcome. How did you and the friend make amends? What advice would you have for someone facing such a time in a friendship?

Start **sharing**. Choose a question to create openness.

- Troy talked about the book *Stick Church* by Larry Osborne. In the book he said we all have a certain number of connectors. Taking out your immediate family (spouse, kids, etc.) can you list 5 people? If you don't what is the reason? Do you feel that your connectors are influencing you in the right direction?
- Thoughtfully evaluate yourself as a friend. Are there some good and/or bad habits that need to change? What changes can you make to become a friend who encourages and loves your friends as Jesus loves us?
- Many people have developed large, active online lives. Social media have become commonplace parts of our lives and even our identities. When thinking about building true connections with people how can an online life be a positive thing? A negative thing?

Start **doing**. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Do you need to end a toxic relationship but not sure how to do it? Share your situation with your leader and ask for prayer and advice.

Start **praying**. Be bold and pray with power.

- Holy Spirit thank you for the role You play in our lives. Thank you that You come along side us and comfort us. Help us to follow You as You lead us to speak in boldness. Continue to convict us when we go our own way and give us revelation. - Amen

Start **digging**. For further study.

- Read the 2nd page and discuss it.

Question: "What does the Bible say about friends?"

Answer: Human beings were created to be social creatures, meaning that we are most comfortable when we have family, friends and acquaintances. Friendship is an important element in a fulfilled, contented life, and those who have close friends, whether one or two or a multitude, will usually be happy and well-adjusted. At the same time, those who call themselves our friends may cause us grief and hardship, constantly disappointing us. So what exactly is a friend, and what does the Bible have to say about friends?

On the positive side, friends can console and help us when we are in trouble, as when Barzillai the Gileadite consoled David when he was being hunted by Saul (2 Samuel 19:25-26) or when Jephthah's daughter's friends consoled her before her death (Judges 11:37-38). A friend may also rebuke in love, proving more faithful than a hypocritical flatterer (Proverbs 27:6). One of the greatest biblical examples of friendship is David and Jonathan, son of King Saul. Jonathan's loyalty to his friend, David, exceeded that to his own father and his own ambitions (1 Samuel 18:1-4; 20:14-17). So attached was David to his loyal friend that, after Jonathan's death, David wrote a song to him, a tribute filled with heart-wrenching pathos (2 Samuel 1:19-27). There was a friendship closer than brotherhood. In the New Testament, many of Paul's letters begin and end with tributes to his friends, those who ministered to him, supported him, prayed for him, and loved him.

Friendship can have its negative aspects as well. Supposed friends can lead us into sin, as when Jonadab persuades Amnon to rape his half-sister, Tamar (2 Samuel 13:1-6). A friend can lead us astray in regard to our faith, as they sometimes did in Israel, leading others to worship false gods (Deuteronomy 13:6-11). In those days, such an act was punishable by death. Even if our friends do not lead us astray, they can provide false comfort and bad advice, as Job's friends did, making his suffering worse and displeasing the Lord (Job 2:11-13, 6:14-27, 42:7-9). Friends can also prove false, pretending affection for their own motives and deserting us when our friendship no longer benefits them (Psalm 55:12-14; Proverbs 19:4, 6-7). Friendship can be broken down through gossip (Proverbs 16:28) or grudges (Proverbs 17:9). Friends should be chosen carefully because, as Paul told the Corinthians, "Bad company corrupts good character" (1 Corinthians 15:33).

Proverbs 1:10-19 and 4:14-19 contain warnings about friends and how we should choose them. We are not to associate with those who entice us to do wrong, no matter how appealing their "friendship" seems to be. Those whose "feet rush to sin" should be avoided. The path they choose is no place for a Christian whose choice should be to follow the "path of the righteous." Only that path leads to friendship with God, which is the ultimate goal of a Christian.