

## PCC Growth Group Sermon Questions

Week of February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026

Sermon Series: Together

Sermon Theme: “God’s Design for Friendships”

Primary Text(s): 1 Samuel 18:1-4

1. Read 1 Samuel 18:1-4
2. How would you define friendship? What makes someone a “real” friend?

*Leader’s Note(s): Listen for contract-based language (we have fun together, they’re there for me, etc.) versus covenant language (commitment, truth, sacrifice, etc.). This opens the door to contrast cultural friendship vs biblical friendship.*

*Follow Up Question(s): What has shaped your view of friendship most?*

3. How does David and Jonathan display qualities of covenantal friendship? How is it different than contractual friendship?

*Follow Up Question(s): What stands out to you about their friendship? Have you ever had a “covenant” friend, where you made an intentional, binding promise to never leave?*

4. How would you describe your current friendship circle?
5. Describe your ideal friend. What are some characteristics you look for?

*Follow Up Question(s): How does Jesus eating with tax collectors and sinners challenge what your ideal friend might look like? What makes a friendship godly?*

6. Godly friendships choose truth over flattery. How do you typically respond when friends challenge your thoughts and/or actions?

*Follow Up Question(s): Who in your life has permission to correct you without offending you? What kind of ground rules need to be set?*

7. Give examples of what it looks like when loyalty become unhealthy. How do we set boundaries with toxic or abusive friends? What does it mean to love from a distance?

*Leader’s Notes: If someone in your group is struggling with an abusive friendship where they may be experiencing harm, please report this to a pastor right away.*

8. Do you struggle with competing against your friends? How can you shift from competition to celebrating what God is doing in their life?

*Leader's Notes: If there is time, practice the ICNU exercise with your Growth Group to cultivate deeper friendship. The leader can start by picking someone and offer an encouragement by saying, "I see in you \_\_\_\_\_" (a compassionate heart, thoughtfulness, etc.).*

9. Share a time when you experienced a friendship fracture. Has there been reconciliation since? What needs to happen to rebuild trust and commitment?
  
10. Godly friendships begin with you. What is one practical step you can take this week toward becoming a committed friend? Is there a specific friendship the Holy Spirit is highlighting to you through this discussion?

*Leader's Notes:*

<i>Temptation</i>	<i>Action Step</i>
<i>Competing with friends</i>	<i>Send an encouraging text message to a friend you tend to get jealous of and recognize what God is doing in their life.</i>
<i>Ghosting (Disappearing on friends)</i>	<i>Repair one strained friendship. Invite a mediator or neutral third-party person who can help facilitate the conversation if needed.</i>
<i>Inconsistency</i>	<i>Invite a friend to dinner and commit to showing up consistently for them.</i>