



SERMON DISCUSSION PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE

Christian Friendship | Dave Cover | October 11, 2026

Workbook Review

- What is something you understood better from the Live Your Identity Chapter a couple weeks ago?
- What stood out to you as you thought about your code this week?
- What is something you would like to live out going forward?

This week: Living with purpose is meant to be done with others, which requires that we learn to bear with, forgive, and encourage one another with grace and truth

Opening Question: Who was a close friend of yours growing up, and what made that friendship work?

Sermon Discussion

Genesis 2:18 (NIV)

The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

1. Dave pointed out that God said "it is not good for the man to be alone" *before* sin ever entered the world. Why does it matter that our need for relationship is part of how we were designed, not a result of something broken?
2. Dave said the New Testament has about 100 "one another" commands that are "grammatically impossible to obey alone." What does it mean that "God's purpose for your life is written in the plural"? How does that challenge the way many of us think about faith?
3. How has living in community always been difficult? How so in this "age of grievance"?

Colossians 3:13 (NIV)

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

4. Dave said the little word "as" is doing all the work in this verse. How does remembering the way God has forgiven and borne with you change the way you respond when someone lets you down?

Proverbs 19:11 (NIV)

A person's wisdom yields patience; it is to one's glory to overlook an offense.

Proverbs 27:6 (NIV)

Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.

5. Proverbs tells us it is wise to overlook an offense, and also that a true friend is willing to wound us with the truth. How do we know when to let something go and when to lovingly speak up?
6. A University of Kansas study found it takes 50 hours together to become casual friends and more than 200 hours to become close friends. What gets in the way of investing that kind of time, and what would it look like to make room for it this season?

Luke 6:32 (NIV)

If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them.

John 15:13–15 (NIV)

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned

7. Dave said the word "credit" in Luke 6:32 is literally the word "grace," and that Christian friendship begins where the cost begins. How does knowing that Jesus knows all your thoughts and still calls you his friend give you the grace to get over the "wall" in your friendships?
8. How can we improve our relationships with one another in our group?

Sharing and Prayer

In a time of silent prayer, ask the group (pausing to give time for silent reflection and prayers)...

- Have I been trying to go it alone? Do I think it's weak to need other people?
- How have I allowed busyness or insecurity or fear to keep me from cultivating friendships?
- Who is someone that I've allowed my heart to harden towards and need to bear with or forgive?
- Whom can I be a friend to this week? How can I make time for that?

Close with a prayer asking that God's love for us would empower us to love each other and others and that God would deepen our friendships and community.

What to do for next time...

- Read and answer the daily workbook pages for Principle 5 on *Find Your People*.
- If meeting in two weeks, also do the workbook pages for Principle 6 on *Resist Mission Drift*.