

FRIENDS

...TOGETHER ON MISSION...

“Friends” - Week 7: *Friends that are also lovers*

Introduction (*Read aloud before discussion.*)

Happy Valentine’s Day! As we conclude our conversation about friends, let’s talk about friends who are friends of Jesus, and who have also become lovers in the covenant of marriage.

Sermon Discussion (*Use as a guide for dialogue, let God lead, and read the verses aloud.*)

1. When was your first crush and what was that person’s name?
2. 2. Read Ruth 2:5, 14-16. Boaz is attracted and begins to flirt with Ruth! Flirting is “good” unless it’s bad. Dating is “good” unless it’s bad. What is the difference between good flirting/dating and bad flirting/dating?
3. 3. Should we stop flirting/dating (our spouse) when we get married? What do you think?
4. 4. Read Ruth 3:3, 13. Ruth is making an effort to be alluring and look good for Boaz while Boaz is promising to stand up, fight for, and protect Ruth. Is all of that just an ancient stereotype or are we seeing something about true masculinity and femininity?
5. 5. Read Ruth 4:13. We might call this “married friends with benefits”! God designed sex for marriage. Does the designer of attraction, dating, marriage, sex, and pleasure know what he is doing? Is it possible in this day and age to save and savor sex in and for marriage only?
6. 6. Read Ruth 4:16-17. Wow, Ruth and Boaz are the great grandparents of King David! What if the greatest thing you do for God is not something that you build or accomplish but someone that you raise? How would that change parenting?

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Ministry Time (*Invite the Spirit of God to come. Say, “Come Holy Spirit.”*)

We have all failed in love. We have all been selfish. We have all sinned against others. Celebrate the forgiveness of Jesus right now. Thank him for his grace and his power so that our love story tomorrow will be different than our love story yesterday.

Spiritual Formation (*This is a weekly practice as we seek to be with and like Jesus.*)

Choose today to be a man or a woman of standing. Honor yourself and others. If you have children or spiritual children, see loving and raising them as the ultimate mission, the ultimate adventure. Because that’s exactly what God does all day every day!

Daily Reading (*Tune into the daily “Together On Mission” podcast, and let’s start every day with Jesus.*)

MON

Ruth 1 | Psalm 95

TUES

Ruth 2 | Psalm 96

WED

Ruth 3 | Psalm 97

THUR

Ruth 4 | Psalm 98

FRI

Genesis 2 | Psalm 99

SAT

Catch up on daily reading or choose a passage, any passage and enjoy

Tune in next week for “Jonah” – Week 1