

Life-Changing Friendships

We are not meant to follow Jesus alone; we are created to be in relationship with God and with others! Throughout this series, consider the health and specifics of some key relationships. These pages allow you to name specific people in your life and describe how you stay connected to them. As we do this, we look to Jesus as our example.

Start by assessing your current relationships and then begin thinking about ways you'd like to grow.

The Trinity: God in Community



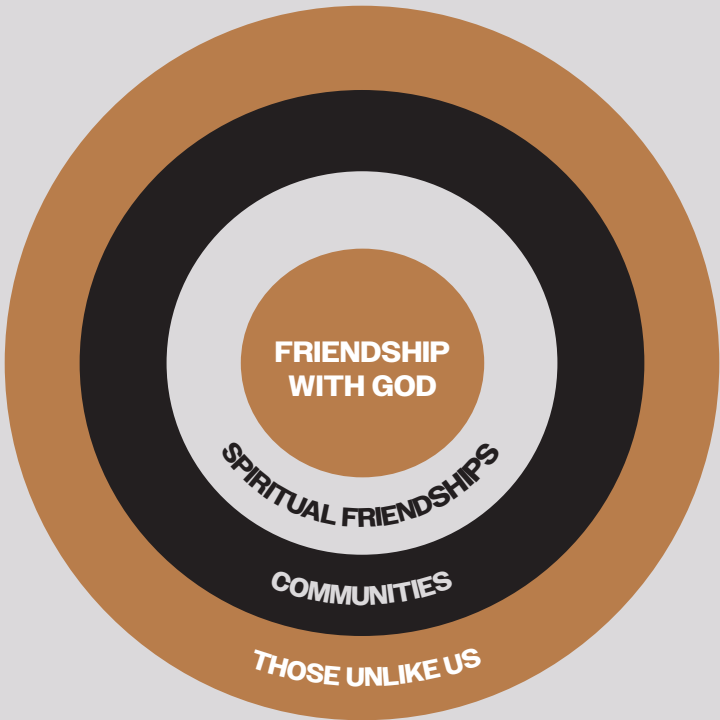
The Trinity shows us God in community—one God in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It's an example of unity and love, and we are invited to follow his example.

“The goal for all of them to become one heart and mind—Just as you, Father, are in me and I in you, So they might be one heart and mind with us.”

John 17:21 (Message paraphrase)

“May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”

2 Corinthians 13:14



Friendship with God

“But Jesus often withdrew to the wilderness for prayer.” Luke 5:16

- When do I regularly spend time with God?
- What are some of the practices that help me connect?
- What gets in the way of my friendship with God?

Spiritual Friendships

Inner Circle Friends (Triad)

“...Jesus took Peter, James, and John up on a mountain to pray.” Luke 9:28

- Who are the people in your life that are in your inner circle?

- When and how do you spend time with them?

- How do they encourage and challenge you in your relationship with Jesus?

Spiritual Friendships

“This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you.” John 15:12

- Who are some of the people you regularly meet with as you follow Jesus?

- What types of groups or activities help you stay connected to others at church?

- Friendship takes work. Is there someone you need to reach out to and meet with?

Communities

"Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets." Matthew 7:12

"Jesus traveled through all the towns and villages of that area, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." Matthew 9:35-36

- What are some of the groups of people that you belong to within the church?

- What are some of the places in your local community where you meet with people?

- Who are some of your neighbors?

- How is God shaping you through each of these communities and individuals?

- How can these communities help you grow in love?

Those Unlike Us

“Tax collectors and other notorious sinners often came to listen to Jesus teach. This made the Pharisees and teachers of religious law complain that he was associating with such sinful people—even eating with them!” Luke 15:1-2

- Are there specific people or groups of people you struggle to love?
- Jesus models giving care and attention to those on the margins of society. Who might be people or groups that are often forgotten or overlooked today?
- Is there anyone you need to invite to share a meal with you?