

LIFE GROUP Discussion Guide

Northend Church

Choose Friends Wisely

Proverbs 13:20

A NOTE TO LEADERS: These questions are to guide your conversation. Don't be rigid about getting through every last one. Be sure to spend time on the application part.

OPEN:

- 1) When you were growing up, were your parents protective of who your friends were? Are there things you wish they would have done differently?
- 2) If you're a parent, especially of teenagers, how do you encourage your kids to choose good friends. What is your criteria?

DIG:

- 1) Read Proverbs 13:20
"He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools detest turning from evil." OR in the ESV,
"Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise,
but the companion of fools will suffer harm"
- 2) Mike said in his sermon, "You should never undermine the power of influence." How does today's passage and the following verses support this? Prov 18:24, Prov 27:17, Prov 12:26, Prov 14:6-7, Prov 22:24-25, 1 Corinthians 15:33? What are the main thrusts regarding choosing friends in these verses?
- 3) Mike's phrase to remember this week is **Walk with Fools and they'll hang you out to dry. Walk with the Wise and they'll teach you how to fly.** A fool isn't someone with a low IQ, but rather someone who lives as if God doesn't exist. Have you had friends like this? Share a time when you may have walked with "fools" or perhaps were one yourself. What was the outcome? (I know... it's pretty personal.)
- 4) What is a true friend? How does Proverbs 17:17 apply? Do you have such a friendship (besides your spouse)? Would you care to share?
- 5) How does Psalm 1 describe a wise person?
*Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
2 but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.
3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season,
and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.*
- 6) Wise people are people of integrity. What does that mean in today's society? What do the wise desire? See Psalm 119:1, 105; 2 Timothy 2:15?
- 7) When is a time in your life you experienced one of the following warning signs?
 1. It dawns on you that your core group of friends isn't moving in the direction you want your life to be moving.
 2. You catch yourself pretending to be someone other than who you really are.
 3. You feel pressure to compromise.
 4. You hear yourself saying, "I'll go, but I won't participate."

5. You hope the people you care about most don't find out where you've been or whom you've been with.

8) How does a "*companion of fools suffer harm*"? 1 Corinthians 15:33

APPLY: For more personal conversation.

- 1) How is Proverbs 13:20 demonstrated in your life?
- 2) How do you manage the tension between "walking with the wise" and yet still have relationships with people who need to have Christ in their life? Consider Matthew 9:10-11.
- 3) What is your biggest take away from this conversation tonight?

PRAY:

Take time to pray; praising and thanking God, and for the any concerns shared above. Pray for each person's deeper relationship with Jesus. Pray for your friendships with believers and others in your life who may not be. Pray for people in your life who need to know Jesus and are living with difficult consequences for their choices. Include whatever else God lays on your heart. Bless one another as you close.