



Small Group Sermon Guide

March 18 & 19, 2017, Pastor Jamie Rasmussen

Brotherly Affection | 2 Peter 1:5-7

^{ESV} **2 Peter 1:5-7** For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with **brotherly affection**...

Main Point: *Whether we like it or not, God calls us to be friends with each other.*

“Christian brotherhood is not an ideal which we must realize; it is rather a reality created by God in Christ in which we may participate.” - Dietrich Bonhoeffer, German theologian, pastor, and martyr (1906–1945)

GETTING TO KNOW ME

Instructions: The purpose of these questions is to generate responses that are self-revealing and informative. Feel free to ask all of these questions to your group or simply choose the one that best fits your group.

1. What qualities do you look for in a friend?
2. Who’s your “best friend?” How did they become your best friend? What’s makes them your best friend?
3. Are Christian friendships easier or more difficult than non-Christian friendships for you? Explain.

INTO THE BIBLE

Instructions: The purpose of these questions is to draw group members into the Bible to discover truth from passages that were not the primary text for the weekend message.

1. Read Proverbs 22:24-25. What’s the warning? Is there someone in your life who’s negatively influencing you? (Beware of gossip!) What are you going to do about it?
2. Read Proverbs 17:9. What’s the principle? How have you seen this play out in your life this week? How can you apply this proverb in your life today?
3. Read Proverbs 16:28. What’s the warning? Why is it so difficult not to “whisper?” (See Proverbs 18:8.) What can help you not to whisper?

4. Read Proverbs 27:17. What does “iron sharpens iron” mean in relationships? Who plays that part for you? What happened when someone recently played that role in your life? Why is it difficult for you to do it for someone else? What’s the right way and wrong way to do it?
5. Read Matthew 11:19. How is Christ the quintessential friend? How does His brotherly affection encourage your brotherly affection toward others?

APPLICATION

Instructions: The purpose of these questions is to apply the main points from the weekend message.

1. Is there a Christian brother or sister in your life that’s difficult to show love? (Pastor Jamie called them EGR - Extra Grace Required - Christians.) What makes it difficult? (Beware of gossip!) How do you plan to show them brotherly affection even though it’s hard?
2. Who is God calling you to love who you were previously overlooking because you didn’t share a lot in common with them? What would it look like for you to show them “brotherly affection?”
3. How can your group become the epitome of brotherly affection? Come up with specific ways where you can grow in this area.
4. Pastor Jamie offered four scriptures to assist us in loving the unlovable - 1 Thessalonians 4:9; 1 Peter 1:22; Hebrews 13:1; and Romans 12:10. What was most impactful/helpful for you in showing love? Why?

PRAYER

Instructions: In addition to your normal time of prayer, please spend some time praying through the following points from the sermon.

1. Pray that your group would be the epitome of brotherly affection.
2. Pray that you would be a good friend to every Christian you encounter.