



October 19, 2011

Joe Friendly
Beyond Friendly— Being Friends

Being friendly is one thing but having friendships is much more important for us. Tonight we look at areas of loyalty, honesty and compassion to see some of the most important ingredients of true friendships.

ACCESS LUTHER—CATECHISM

Holy Communion

- Give an overview of the sacrament of Holy Communion.
- Focus on sharing how communion reminds us of God's:
 - Loyalty:** He doesn't give up on us and loved us enough to send His only Son to help and save us.
 - Honesty:** He doesn't tell us what we want to hear he tells us what we need to hear.
 - Compassion:** He loves us so deeply that He is willing to suffer death and take on our mistakes for us. Not once but every time we stumble and sin.
- Communion strengthens our friendships with God and each other in the real presence of Christ that we all share in through the bread and wine and Word.

SCRIPTURE

Jesus Calms the Storm
Mark 4:35-41 (NRSV)

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

LARGE GROUP NOTES

Jesus calming the storm shows us the main things about being a great friend.

Loyalty: Christ didn't jump ship he stayed. We stay by our friends. We are loyal to brands, pets are loyal to us so even more so... God is loyal to us (Jesus).

Honesty: Jesus asks them about fear and faith. He is honest with them about their weaknesses. Tell the truth. Say what you mean in a loving and straightforward way. Sometimes it is really hard to hear the truth. There is no room for gossip! Honest friendships last!

Compassion: Christ saw their fear and made the storm END. The word means "with passion," completely and totally sold out to something. How sold out are you to completely and totally helping your friends when needed?

Grace: God loves us no matter what and we should show the same to our friends (and everyone).

(not survive, seek to...) THRIVE = RELATIONSHIPS | DIRECTION | GROWTH

"Some fell into good soil, and when it grew, it produced a hundredfold." As Jesus said this, he called out, "Let anyone with ears to hear listen!" Luke 8:8

Joe Friendly Beyond Friendly-Being Friends

Mark 4:35-41

30 SEC POINTS

BIBLE VERSE

ACCESS LUTHER (Pastor)

Mr.ROB / Creative Interruption

SCORESHEET

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| 1. A B C D | 5. A B C D |
| 2. A B C D | 6. A B C D |
| 3. A B C D | 7. A B C D |
| 4. A B C D | 8. A B C D |

LARGE GROUP



THRIVE SMALL GROUP

- 1 **OPENING PRAYER:** Have someone in the group say a prayer or open together with the Lord's Prayer.
- 2 **LARGE GROUP REWIND:** Have one or two people in the group share a couple **30 SEC Points** from Large Group time.

3 **TURN TO:** **Proverbs 18:24** *Read silently AND have someone read it out loud.*

In what ways are we sometimes closer to our friends than our own family?

Ever had someone who "played" at being your friend? Tell us more? How did you decide they really weren't a true friend? How did you feel?

Ever had someone stick with you no matter what? Tell us more? What did they do? How did you feel?

Why is it hard to be a true friend?

What tips do you have for each other in being good friends?

Bookmark Highs

4

Use your **LOWS** and **HIGHS** Bookmark and take a minute or two to think of a time when you've experienced compassion, honesty or loyalty with your friends. Let the different categories help you think of a story.

LOWS and HIGHS

5

If time allows, use your **LOWS** and **HIGHS** Bookmark to think of things since you last met to talk about. **What's going on in your life?**

Closing Prayer

6

Circle up and go around your group for prayer. In prayer ask God to help you make your friendships stronger. Add any other prayers you want! **AMEN!!!**