



*This discussion guide is meant to provide group leaders with a framework to lead a gospel-centered discussion based off the T.O.D. Talk in the first week. This should be used to guide conversation and push the students closer to the Scriptures.*

## Week 2 OVERVIEW

**Series Summary:** We are created to be in relation with the people around us. Whether or not they follow Jesus, we must learn how to navigate those relationships. Friendships are one type of relationship that we interact with regularly in our lives. When we look at these relationships, we want to draw out the importance of what Scripture says and how we can live out a godly life through them.

**Main Idea:** Friendships consume a lot of our time and energy and how we navigate through them is very important. Last week we evaluated our friendships. This week, we want to discuss what a friendship that is focused on Jesus looks like.

**Key Scripture:** John 15:9-13; Proverbs 22:24-25, Proverbs 13:20, Proverbs 12:26, Eccles. 4:9-10

## DISCUSSION:

### Getting Started

- Think about who your friends/influences are. Do they draw you closer to Jesus or further away?
- Is it okay to have friends of the opposite gender? Why? Why not? (yes, but be cautious to not isolate yourself from same gender biblical community ... aka: life groups).
- Is there biblical community within your friendships?

**\*Pro Tip:** it is really healthy to have friends that are spiritually behind, beside, and ahead of you. Friends behind you are friends you are investing into. Friends beside you are people you're growing alongside of. Friends ahead of you are people who might be a few years older that have learned and grown in their faith longer than you.

### Digging Deeper

- Can you identify where you are with your friends? Are you spiritually Behind, **Beside** or **Ahead** of them?
- How do you interact with friends that are ...
  - **Behind?**
  - **Beside?**
  - **Ahead?**
- Read John 15:9-13. What does sacrificing for your friends look like?
- Take a minute to evaluate if your friendships are focused on Jesus.
  - If not, what needs to change?
  - If yes, how can you continue to grow?

### **Friendship examples in the Bible**

- Behind->Luke 5:17-20
- Beside->Ruth 1:8-14
- Ahead->1 Timothy 1:2