

**Wide Guys: Friends**  
Brian Finstrom ~ December 3, 2017

**Friendship**

1 Samuel 18:3-4

David and Jonathan

1 Samuel 19:1-7

Saul wants to kill David

1 Samuel 20

An incredible story of friendship

**Wisdom**

1 Kings 11:9-13

The Lord tells Solomon that he will tear the kingdom from his son.

1 Kings 12:6

Rehoboam (at age 41) takes council from his father's advisors. (The wise older men)

1 Kings 12:8

Rehoboam takes council from his cronies

1 Kings 22

Ahab hates Micaiah because he never prophesies good concerning himself

Job

The story of 3 self-righteous, religious, "friends" that start out with a goal of comforting a formerly wealthy man that has had all but his own life taken from him. They abandon wisdom and move to piety and from piety to frustration, frustration to anger in their attempt to "help" him. One younger man, Elihu, impartially points out the flaws in the arguments from Job and the others and refocuses the discussion back on God and His perfection. God answers and rebukes, Job repents, God restores, Job honors God.

Proverbs 17:17

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

Proverbs 18:24

A man of many companions may come to ruin,  
but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

Proverbs 27:5-6, 9

Better is open rebuke  
than hidden love.

Faithful are the wounds of a friend;

profuse are the kisses of an enemy.

Oil and perfume make the heart glad,

and the sweetness of a friend comes from his earnest counsel.

John 13:34-35

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

John 15:13

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, *for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, so that you will love one another.*

### Questions for discussion/reflection

How does our culture define friendship? Is it the same or different than other cultures? Generations?

How often do i make an intentional choice about who I am friends with? Am I making concessions that interfere with my kingdom witness?

Is my friendship with Christ the defining relationship in my life?

How often is it on my mind to honestly honor God in my friendships?

What kind of a friend am I? Would my friends honestly say I speak the truth in love? Am I willing to risk my own status on their behalf?