

MADE FOR PEOPLE



Sermon Discussion Questions
09-13-26

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Sermon Series: Made For People
Week 5: When Friendship Hurts

1. ICE BREAKER: Pastor Jessica provided some great examples of duos in popular culture. Batman & Robin, Monica & Rachel, Bluey & Bingo...

Do you have a "duo" in your life? Someone you're often paired with or do life with?
What makes your friendship work?

2. Read our Scripture for this week: Acts 15:36-41

³⁶ Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us go back and visit the believers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing." ³⁷ Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, ³⁸ but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. ³⁹ They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, ⁴⁰ but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the believers to the grace of the Lord. ⁴¹ He went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

Do you find it helpful to know that even someone as influential as Paul experienced conflict with a friend? Why or why not? What else stood out to you in these verses?

3. Expect Conflict - Read Acts 15:39a. "They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company." There is a quote often used in marriage counseling: "Conflict is the price you pay for deeper intimacy."

Do you find this to be true in your friendships? How do you typically handle conflict with a friend?

4. Attempt Repair - On our staff, we have a rule: Go first, go fast. Don't wait for the other person to make the first move, and don't let conflict linger.

Which part of "go first, go fast" is most challenging for you? Why? What is one thing you can do this week to work on it?

5. Acknowledge - Read Romans 12:18. *"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."*

How can we acknowledge that there is a conflict without making the situation worse?

6. Own - We all have a part to play in conflict, even if our part is not equal.

Why can it be so difficult to admit when we have played a part in a conflict? What can help us take responsibility for our part?

7. Practice Forgiveness - Read Ephesians 4:32. *"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."*

What makes forgiveness, or asking for forgiveness, difficult? What is one step you can take to practice forgiveness this week?

8. End Well - Read Acts 15:39a. "They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company." Sometimes, to protect yourself from further hurt, you may need to end a friendship. Craig Groeschel speaks about two things we cannot allow our friends to do: (1) Distract us from God's plan. (2) Continually tempt us to sin.

Why can it be difficult to recognize when a friendship is no longer healthy? How can we end a friendship in a way that honors God and shows love and grace?

9. PRACTICE: Read Numbers 6:24-26. *"The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace."* Pastor Jessica challenged that rather than hearing these words in Scripture or song as a prayer for ourselves, we should think about someone else.

Is there someone you're experiencing conflict with who you could pray this blessing over this week? How might praying this blessing over them change the way you see or respond to them?