

0 (0s):

And last week we talked about some of the relationships we need in our lives. We need a guide. We need a wise guide to just help us to be one step ahead of us and say, Hey, come with me. Let me teach you a few things. So we need some guides in our life. And today we're going to talk about some other relationships we need, particularly the companions we need for this journey, because we need friends. Don't we need friends. I remember when Melissa and I moved to Nebraska, we didn't know anybody there. It was a new, new town, new state. And we went there right? When I got finished with my schooling, I was the pastor of this church and just a slight exaggeration, but it was 60 people over 60. And we got there and we were like, okay, we need some friends. There was one couple around our age. We became quick, fast friends with them. And then six months into our time there, they said, Oh, by the way, we're moving to Alaska

1 (46s):

Last ride. And we're like, are you kidding? Me? And Kelly, Kelly still watches my message like Elliott in Alaska. But, but we were like, are you kidding?

0 (55s):

We're we're here all by ourselves. And yes, we have some friends that are over 60, but we need some that are our age. We need some companions. Right? And I remember praying that night, Melissa and I, God give us friends, God just give us some friends. We need some friends, our age. And it felt like a very selfish prayer at the time. But I actually think it's something that God has put in our hearts that we want and need friends around us. Don't we, we need companions when we're going through a difficult time or when we're lonely or when we're in a new state or at a new job, we realize, Hey, I need some friends. I need some friends to help me through this time because I've just lost my job because I'm dealing with some health issues or someone I love is dealing with health issues. When, when we're trying to figure out how to be a parent, we need friends.

0 (1m 36s):

We need companions that are just on this journey with us. They don't need to be ahead of me. I just want them to be there by my side. No, we have this longing for friends. I saw a tweet the other day and kind of caught my eye. It said that nobody talks about Jesus's miracle of having 12 close friends in his thirties. It's not a miracle, right? But of course, someone snarkily responded. If I could turn water into wine, I'd have 122 friends in my thirties. That was funny. But, but Jesus knew this. We need friends, right? He had 12 guys around him as his disciples. We know that we need friends. It's even the reason why people still watch syndication of friends in the office and Seinfeld, and even cheers.

0 (2m 21s):

Even though they've been off the air for decades, because we want friends like that. Don't we, we have this longing for companions. And on the journey of the question he has this, this series is all about that kind of story form that we see again and again, in our literature and movies, there's always companions for the hero. There's always some companions around that person to support them and encourage them. One of my

favorite clips that Melissa's already told me, I've referenced too much is from the Lord of the rings. So let's go ahead and watch this clip together.

2 (2m 52s):

I will take the ring tomato <inaudible> is indeed one of the camps anywhere without no need.

2 (4m 2s):

It is hardly possible to separate to even when he is someones to a secret comes tied up. Anyway, you need people love intelligence on this sort of <inaudible> shall be in the fellowship.

0 (4m 42s):

Oh yeah. That gets you pumped up, right? Yeah. We need a few drawers on our side and some elves and just some little friends, some other hobbits, man, we need companions like that. Don't we? But it's not just the Lord of the rings. All our favorite quests have companions, Dorothy. Right? She had, of course the, the cowardly lion, the tin man and even Toto. Right. You know, there's companions on the journey. It's why even Nimo had to have Dory. Yeah. SPRAT door's name had to have Dory. Right? You need a companion. So I Shrek had donkey. Okay. Everybody needs a companion. Even Tom Hanks stuck on a desert Island has to have Wilson.

0 (5m 22s):

Right? Everyone needs companions on their journey. And in fact, if you watch these quest movies, there's always like one of the key moments is when a companion shows up to help that person along on their journey, you'll start to notice this more and more. It's the companions that help the hero, achieve what they were supposed to do and make it to the end to reach the goal. We need companions in our life, but it's hard to do. It's hard to make friends. And I put that tweet about Jesus, because as you get older, you're like, man, it's hard. I'm an adult. It's hard to make friends. And we think, man, it was so much easier when I was a kid. But I honestly think if you look back there, it was as hard. But the deal was that your parents dropped you off at a place that you'd never been with 30 complete strangers.

0 (6m 5s):

And you had to spend seven hours a day, five days a week with these people every year, it was a new group of people. If you had to do that every year, you'd be terrified, right? Adults, if you got stuck, Oh my gosh, 30 strangers for seven hours straight today, you'd be terrified. And so you're kind of forced into friendships as a kid, but it's still hard even going to college. Like you don't know anyone. And then you show up and you're like, okay, I have no friends, no family. I just have to make new friends, I guess. So we have to do that when we're younger. But then as we get older, we realize how hard it is to have friends. It's difficult. It's challenging. So we all know we need friends. We all want to have friends.

1 (6m 41s):

So how do we get there? Well, what we're going to learn today is that

0 (6m 45s):

We're, we're going to have to do something a little counterintuitive, a little bit different than what we're doing. Cause it's not about finding

1 (6m 52s):

Friends. It's about being friends,

0 (6m 56s):

Not about going out there so I can discover my companions. Who are these people going to be on my journey? No. Who can I be a companion for? In fact, Ralph Waldo Emerson once said over 150 years ago, the only way to have a friend

1 (7m 8s):

To be one pretty simple.

0 (7m 12s):

So that is going to lead us to our big idea for

1 (7m 14s):

Today. And you're going to remember this paraphrasing. One of our presidents ask not what your companions can do for you, but what you can do for your companions. Guys can remember that. In fact,

0 (7m 29s):

Don't want us to practice it right now, but we're going to do it in our best Bostonian accent. Can you do that with me online? I want you to say this as well. So can we do that together? Ask not what your companions can do for you, but what you can do for your companions.

1 (7m 45s):

Some

0 (7m 45s):

Of you have some terrible Bostonian accents, but good try mine. Wasn't any better. I'm terrible at accents, but this is what we need to think. Hey, what we're thinking about this wrong. We need friends. We know we need friends, but it's not like I need to go out and find the good friends for me. No, we need to go out. How can I be a good friend

1 (8m 3s):

To someone else? That's

0 (8m 5s):

What we're going to learn. And to make it even more memorable today, I'm giving you a little acronym

1 (8m 9s):

Who you're going to like this one, four

0 (8m 11s):

Points today. We're going to learn it. And this acronym is going to help you remember this message and the four things that we are taught to do in our passage from today, Sawyer helped me with this just so you know, if I've ever have a good idea. It's from Sawyer. If I have a bad one, it's probably mine.

1 (8m 25s):

Okay. And so

0 (8m 26s):

Here's our acronym today. It's team. You guys remember this right team T think of others first. He encouraged them, always a assemble in community and M motivated

1 (8m 36s):

Toward love. We need a team. So we

0 (8m 39s):

You've got to flip our mindset and how can I be the companion? How can I be the friend? How can I be on someone else's team? And you will be amazed to find that you have those,

1 (8m 47s):

His teammates and companions and friends with you.

0 (8m 51s):

So let's look at this first point. And before we jump into the first one, let's actually read our just two simple verses today from Hebrews 10, 24 and 25, Hebrews chapter 10, verse 24 and 25. Let's read those together. It says, and let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up, meeting together as summer in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another and all the more as you see the day approaching,

1 (9m 18s):

See, see this,

0 (9m 19s):

These two verses are all about what, what we need to do for one another, for our friends, for each other. So the first point we're going to see is think others first. And this comes from verse 24 where it says, and let us consider, let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. The first point is that we need to consider it. And we get, think about, we need to focus and think about how can I help this person? What are they going through?

1 (9m 43s):

What's their life like right now to think about them. We think about ourselves. Don't we

0 (9m 50s):

Always focused on what I'm feeling, what I'm going through my hard time, my difficulties, but we need to be thinking about others. First. In fact, some of you are watching this and you're like, yeah, my friend needs to hear this. No, you need to hear this.

1 (10m 3s):

Think of

0 (10m 4s):

Others first. And we need to start thinking about them. You need to think about them in Philippians. Paul says something similar. He says, everyone should look not to his own interests, but rather to the interests of others,

1 (10m 18s):

What are they going?

0 (10m 18s):

We went through in our life. What do they need? What's their situation that they're in. And we, we so often do the opposite where like, Oh, I've had such

1 (10m 26s):

It's a hard week. Oh, why won't my friends call me. Right?

0 (10m 31s):

Why doesn't anyone know what I'm going through? Nobody cares. You send them a text. Four hours later. Nothing. No one likes me.

1 (10m 40s):

Everybody hates me. I have no friends. You don't have to raise your hand if you've done that before

0 (10m 45s):

We do that. Right. Instead of thinking, I'm wondering if they're busy. I wonder if they have four kids and probably don't have time to get back to me right now. Maybe they're working or in the mountains or something and they don't have service.

1 (10m 56s):

Okay. But, but

0 (10m 57s):

To think others first you think about what's going on in their life to check up on them. And it does mean we need to ask them sometimes. Right? I want to challenge you guys to do something. Whenever you think of another person, text them. Maybe not at three in the morning, but when you're thinking of another person, just text him, maybe shoot them an email. If it's three in the morning, then they can get to them in the morning. Right. But just, if you're thinking of someone, text them this week, I was reading Phil Knight's memoir about Nike called shoe dog. And I was like, I have two friends in Portland where this book said, so I texted both these friends this week. Hey, you guys are on my mind. I'm thinking about you. How are things going? But what if we did stuff like that? And just like, I'm thinking about you, man, those simple words, I'm thinking about you, it conveys so much, right?

0 (11m 43s):

You, they don't tell you what they're thinking, but it doesn't really matter. It means something. When someone's thinking about you, I'm praying for you. I care about you. I miss you. Those words mean so much to people. What if, what if we did that? What if we reached

1 (11m 54s):

Out like that?

0 (11m 56s):

Yeah, because sometimes you'll find people are going through a hard thing. I'm so glad that you reached out. I remember calling someone in our church a few weeks ago. Hey, I was thinking about you and now I'm so glad you called because this is such a hard day and went

1 (12m 5s):

On. Boom. And I was like, I guess

0 (12m 8s):

It's the Holy spirit. Sometimes they, God puts people on your mind for that.

1 (12m 10s):

No reason. Think of others first. This last week, Melissa had hurt her back. Yeah.

0 (12m 17s):

And it's kind of hard to have three little kids when you have a hurt back. And Grace Chan heard about it, grace in our church. And she showed up at our house with a plate of cookies and she said, can I watch the kids and make you dinner tonight? And we're like, well, okay. And we're like, okay, we'll just take the cookies. We're good with the rest. But as soon as grace left Melissa, and she didn't even know what I was talking about this week. She said, wow, grace is a good friend.

1 (12m 39s):

Right. Cause she thought about me. And that's how you feel when someone thinks about you.

0 (12m 46s):

And that's what we're challenged to do to think about others. Instead of thinking why

1 (12m 49s):

And people thinking about me, how can I think of others first? How can I think of others

0 (12m 55s):

First? I want to just encourage you to do that. What, what are they going through? What's going on in there

1 (13m 1s):

Life. So I think of others first. Okay.

0 (13m 5s):

And then once you begin to do that, you do realize, Hey, that person is probably going through a hard time right now. You know what? They could use some encouragement. He encourage them, always think of others first and encourage them

1 (13m 19s):

Always the

0 (13m 21s):

End of our section in verse 25, it says, but encouraging one another and all the more as you see the day approaching. So encouraging one another, we need to do this for each other. We need to encourage each other.

1 (13m 34s):

Always. You

0 (13m 36s):

Know, I think it's interesting. It says and all the more as you see the day approaching, and even though this was written 2000 years ago, it was talking about the day of the Lord when Jesus is going to come back to judge the living and the dead, the end of the world. Well, what does everybody still asking each

1 (13m 49s):

Other right now? Are we in the end times?

0 (13m 52s):

Okay. People are commenting this online. People are asking me, I, and I'll tell you, I know all the answers. I don't really know, but we are going to have a series. Our next series is going to be at, at the end times. Interesting. Right? We're gonna look at what Jesus said in a series. We're calling doomsday, preppers. I'm not kidding. This is what it's called. You're going to like this series. We're going to see what did Jesus say about

1 (14m 12s):

The end times and how do we get ready

0 (14m 14s):

For them? Yes. It's going to be a great series starting February 28th, but we need to encourage each other because when people are thinking about art, the V are these the end times? Why are they thinking that

1 (14m 26s):

Things are going bad?

0 (14m 27s):

There's Wars and rumors of Wars. There's conflict. There's politicians doing? Who knows what?

1 (14m 35s):

Yeah.

0 (14m 35s):

Pray for our politicians. We're commanded to do that. We've got to, they need them. Okay. They need those prayers. Okay. So we're thinking of what the heck is going on. Why are, is our nation just crazy right now? We got a plague. We got, who

1 (14m 46s):

Knows everything. Right?

0 (14m 49s):

And so people wondered. They get worried. What do they, when they're worried and not hopeful about the future, they need, need encouragement. They needed someone to lift up their spirits and give them hope. So that's why it says and all the more as you see the day approaching, but it's not just then we need to encourage each other. Always in first Thessalonians, five 11, we read, therefore, encourage one another and build each other up. Just as in fact you are doing, they need encouragement. They need to be built up. And it's always, I want you to just think, as we're thinking about another person, when do other people need encouragement? Well, when they're feeling down, when they're hurting, when they're sick, when someone they love is sick, when they are looking for a job, when they start a new job, when they get to that job and it's kind of rough, their boss boss is pretty annoying when they are the boss and they have to be annoying to people, okay?

0 (15m 39s):

When they've lost their job, when they've retired from their job. And now they're trying to figure out what to do with their life. And then they're trying to deal because they want to spend time with their grandkids. But then they have to put up with their kids while they're doing it. They need some encouragement. The kids need encouragement because right now they're having to wear masks. If they show up to school, if they can't at all, but they're most of the time they're on zoom and they need their parents to help them. And they have to deal with their parents, man. They need some encouragement, right? And I think you can just go along. Who doesn't need encouragement? No one, nobody has reached their encouragement quotient and said, I'm good. Even when things are going good in someone's life, they need encouragement to keep moving forward. Wow, you're doing great. Keep at it.

0 (16m 20s):

We always, you need encouragement. And so do other people around us. So what if we said, Hey, it's my job to encourage people. It's my job to encourage each other. Always who needs some encouragement right now that person you're thinking of, they need encouragement and they need more encouragement than the encouragement that you're giving them right now. So I want you to think about who, who, who needs encouragement. I want to take a quick poll. All right. Now who in here ever felt awkward, asking for help. Who in here has ever felt awkward asking for help. Even if you desperately need it, you don't want to ask for help. Right? Okay. You can look around if you're online, everyone raised their hand pretty much. Right? We all feel that way online.

0 (17m 0s):

You can say yes. I feel awkward too. Maybe even give me like, is there an emoji for an awkward turtle? I don't know if there is put something in the comment section because it's awkward to ask for help. We don't

want to do it. Even if we're like at our worst point, I don't know. They're kind of busy. Right? And if we feel that way, they feel that way too. Right? Right. They're not going to ask for help, even if they need it so bad. Some people, and a lot of us do this. The more, the most we've ever needed help. We're the farthest away from our friends. And we kind of like close ourselves off from those people. Don't we? So if we're thinking about others first and we're thinking, how can I encourage them? Always who do I need to encourage?

0 (17m 40s):

Even the person you're thinking, I don't know. Their life seems great. Veiny and Kurt. They need it. They need some help. And that's what we do for each other. That's what we do for each other. Especially in a church in our next point is going to be all about church. But, but I saw this, this, this last week and I got permission to talk about this and, and, and, and she actually requested it. But Nisha is a young lady in our church who we love. We all love Anisha. If you know her, she helps in our kids' ministry. She's around here all the time. We love her. Well, this weekend she's gone through some pretty terrible stuff. She's a student now at Colorado state university, but yesterday her stepdad

1 (18m 14s):

Shot her mom. I think I lost microphone. Right. Then am I on? Okay.

0 (18m 26s):

So I'm going through a pretty tough, desperate situation, right? Her mom, they didn't think would make it through the night, but she did. She started recover. She gained consciousness this morning and Anisha was able to talk with her mom. She's here today. She drove down from CSU yesterday with a friend, but we need to pray for a Nisha. Right? She needs encouragement. She needs hope. And, and how can we help her? And how can we encourage her? And I think about that, like, people are going through tough things, Nisha and her family is going through some really difficult stuff. And because of that, I would like to, and I, I asked for her permission, if we could all just pray for her and her family right now. So would you guys join me in prayer for Anisha?

1 (19m 5s):

Yep.

0 (19m 7s):

Lord God, this just such a terrible incident. We don't know why such evil has to happen, but Lord God, we're asking you to help. We're asking you to help Aneesha and her mom. And we pray that you'd give strength to, and that you'd help her recover Lord, that she would fully regain. Lord God, thank you for bringing her through this night. But we pray that you'd give her a full recovery. That you'd be with the doctors and the surgeon and all the nurses and support staff that are there, that they could help and get back on our feet and find full healing. And we pray for Nisha and her siblings who have now just undergone such stress and trauma, Lord God, would you protect them? Heal their minds. Lord, help them be drawn to yourself, help

surround them with people like us and with companions that can help them too, because they're going to need it.

0 (19m 53s):

Not just today, not just this week, but for years to come. And I pray Lord that we would be those people

1 (19m 59s):

For this family. And I just pray this all in Jesus name. Amen.

0 (20m 4s):

And then, so please continue to keep them in prayer. And even Jenna Jenna's in the back, Jenna welcomed Anisha and into her house last night that she could stay with someone this week. So thank you Jenna, for doing that. That's what we do as a church, right? So

1 (20m 15s):

We do so

0 (20m 18s):

There's heavy things like that going on, right? Sometimes we don't even know about it, but people are going through the hardest things. People try to put on this, like stoic face. Like everything's okay, but it's not, people need encouragement. So how can we encourage others always? And instead of saying, I need the encouragement right now use do, but think how can I encourage others? How do they need some hope in their life? How can I lift them up? That's what we need to do. Encourage them always. That's what we, and the best way we can do it is in a church. Honestly, a church is one of the best places where you can find companions for your journey. So this is our third point is to assemble in community, assemble in community in verse 25, it says not giving up, meeting together a summer in the habit of doing that word at meeting together in the Greek is the same root as the word has synagogue, because that's where people were worshiping every single week at the time in the synagogue.

0 (21m 18s):

So it's the same thing. Hey, we need to worship together. We need to meet together. We need to assemble together. Did you know the word church? Ekklesia another Greek word could be translated as assembly. That's why there's a whole denomination called assemblies of God because a church is not a building. It's the body of Christ. It's not a place. It's a people. We are the church. We are the community. So that's why we need to assemble together. We need to keep meeting together because some are in the habit of not going, not being a part of church. And I point this out because a lot of us look back to the first century at church, we read acts and we're like, Oh my gosh, the church was amazing. Back then. I wish the church didn't have all its stupid flaws today.

0 (21m 58s):

We could be back in the first century, but in the first century, people were not going to church. Okay. People are already skipping out because they have had better things to do. Okay. I'm saying that because when we think it's this modern phenomenon, no, it's always been around that. People get in the habit of not going, man. It's easy to get out of the habit of going to church. And then it becomes a habit. Some of you guys have experienced this over the last year. Maybe you're watching online. You know exactly what I'm talking about. You don't go for one week and then kind of feels good. I got some more time. I got to sleep in Anna pancakes this morning. Life is good. When on a hike, I got so much stuff done. And then the second week you're like, I'm really busy. Maybe I'll just stay home again.

0 (22m 39s):

And then by the third week, you're like, I don't need to go to church at all. Do I? I'm fine. Life's good. And it won't be maybe until months, years later that you realize that you're at your lowest point. And you're like, what did I do? Some of you are there right now, but I'm glad you're back. Glad you're here because we need community. It gets so quick into the habit of not going. We have to work against the grain to get us into a habit because it's against our culture. It is not normal for people to go to church every Sunday morning, especially in Colorado, man, you can get the fresh powder on Sunday mornings, go on a hike, go to snooze for some brunch. There's so many things to do on a Sunday morning. It's hard to change that and get to the habit of meeting together.

0 (23m 21s):

But yet it is one of the most crucial and important habits you can ever form in your life to go to church every week. If you guys heard of the concept of Keystone habits, I've talked about it a little bit. A Keystone habit is that if you do this one habit, it actually impacts a whole bunch of other little things in your life. They're there. These habits that have drastic impact and going to church weekly is one of the best habits you can get in your life. And, and they're starting to see this in all sorts of different realms. People are studying it. There's this big study done out of Harvard on women. So they tracked a group of women for 20 years and they found that those who went to church regularly had one third, less likelihood of dying.

0 (24m 4s):

If they went to church weekly. Interesting, right? One that's third, one third, less likelihood of dying in that time period. But there was a hole. So they, so they dove into it more. There's a whole Institute. Now at Harvard, that's examining this kind of stuff. And they found that people who go to church, get this, have a boosted immune system. Yeah. Better than fish oil decreases in blood pressure. Lower cholesterol is what it's weird. Right. But yet they notice all these things in, in fact, in epidemiologist at Harvard looks at all of this. And he said that religion may be a miracle drug.

0 (24m 44s):

Yeah. Okay. People are trying all sorts of different pills and everything. Right? Trying out yoga. You think it's

going to fix everything. Just go to church, just go to church. Don't you don't need to get on a Mediterranean diet. I mean just go to church. There's amazing how much it'll impact you. But it's more than that. Okay? If you go to church, you are less likely to smoke, less likely to abuse, drugs and alcohol or commit violent crimes. Kids have higher. GPA's they're less likely to live in poverty. They're more likely to wear a seatbelt.

2 (25m 16s):

<inaudible>

0 (25m 19s):

People have more meaning in their life. They're less lonely. They have a bigger social network. They're more generous. They're more likely to volunteer their time. They have stronger marriages and yes, better sex. They're less prone to mental illness. And they're happier and anthropologist at Stanford has said one of the most striking scientific discoveries about religion in recent years is that going to church weekly is good for you. I'm glad we discovered this in the last few years. Wow. For thousands of years, it's been here the whole time. Right? That's why your mom says go to church.

0 (25m 60s):

Your grandma's like why you haven't been in church in so long because they know this forever. And yet now the scientists discovered it. I'm so glad they have right. Sheesh mean if people knew about this, wouldn't everybody be in church. They should be. Maybe you're watching this right now. And you know, Oh, so-and-so needs to hear this. Okay. This is the one time you can go send it to them. Okay. Text it to them. Send them this message. Some of you are here today. You're going to send somebody that's messaged you. Haven't been in church for awhile. Get in church. It's good for your health. It's good for your life. It's good for your eternal life. Right? You need a community around you. You need to assemble and community regularly and be there no matter what, because it's when you're bored or busy.

0 (26m 41s):

And you're like, I don't have time. No, no, no. You need it even more. And it's not even you need it. The people around you need it. Who knows when there might be someone going through a really hard time and needs you to show up, to give him a hug and encourage you.

1 (26m 55s):

So don't fall out of the habit of going to church, make it your Keystone habit. Holy spirit is convicting someone right now. Listen, we need it.

0 (27m 7s):

This we need community. That's why we encourage everyone to be in a community group. So it's not just this worship weekly habit. That's good. But in community groups, what we do is we hear the message from Sunday and then we talk about it in the week. So it's like a double dose. Okay. You're getting twice your

vegetables, right? You're you're getting the double dose. It's good for you because you're talking about it. You're talking about it with people who know you and you know them. So you can't hide as much. You can't pretend like things are going well. And then you're in this community group. You develop these relationship over your weeks and months together. And then when someone goes through a hard time or when you're going through a hard time, there's people there for you. So get into community group. And even here you can sign up right now, rise, denver.com/connect.

0 (27m 49s):

Go in the back before you leave, get in a community group. There are so,

1 (27m 51s):

So important. These relationships so important.

0 (27m 56s):

And we, we need community. We need vibrant community. Our value here, a vibrant community is that we are real together to grow together. You've got to show up. We've got to be honest. And when we do that, man, we're going to grow together. And it is an amazing thing to be a part of.

1 (28m 10s):

So get in a church. That's good for you. Okay? A lot of different ways. So that's the third thing. Okay.

0 (28m 17s):

Assembled together. And our M as we finish out our acronym,

1 (28m 20s):

Our M today

0 (28m 22s):

Is to motivate toward love, motivate toward love and Hebrews 10 24 says, and let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. See, not only do we encourage each other, build them up, but sometimes we have to say a hard word to other people. It says spur one another on because a spur is like a, a spur, okay? Right. Riding that horse, you kick them with a sport spurt. It doesn't feel good. That's why they go faster. So they move ahead and not just the horse, isn't just meandering around. They got spurred. They're going in the right direction. Finally, this is why we spring. And we're supposed to spiritually that the Greek word means that it's supposed to be like a jab in the side. It can sometimes feel like conflict,

1 (29m 4s):

But

0 (29m 4s):

The people we need in our life and we need to be for others is sometimes saying those hard words that someone needs to hear. A lot of you surround yourself with friends who just are always saying, Oh, you're such a great person. You're a great parent. Oh yeah. You're awesome. Okay. Sometimes that's good. But sometimes it's a lie,

1 (29m 22s):

Right?

0 (29m 23s):

Sometimes I'm like, no, I wasn't a good parent. Hey, I'm not eating good. I do need to go to church. We need people who are going to spur us on. And even say the hard words, not the friends who are just going to blow, smoke up our

1 (29m 39s):

In, in Proverbs, it says wounds

0 (29m 42s):

From a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies, kisses. See, even if it wounds you and that's, it's a wound, like it hurts you. And it's there for a while. It's got to heal afterwards. I've had people telling me some stuff and it really

1 (29m 57s):

Hurt, but I'm so grateful

0 (29m 60s):

That they said it, man. Those some times the words that help you grow the most as a human being man. I'm, I'm glad they said that. Thanks, honey. I'm kidding. Oh, I'm going to pay for that one later. No, but, but that's one great thing about marriage, right? You have people that challenge you. Right? And we have good friends that challenge us that are our colleagues that, that push us forward our companions. And it's an enemy that multiplies kisses.

1 (30m 32s):

Hey, the person who's

0 (30m 32s):

Always saying, you're great. You're awesome. You're the best that the one who's saying, Oh yeah. I want to put up with that either. You need to leave that guy. I'm married. That's not a friend. That's an enemy. A friend pushes you to do the right thing. Even if it hurts. Okay, they're going to spur you on toward love and good

deeds and notice that it's toward love and good deeds. They're going to do it in love. And they're going to do toward love. They do it in love because they're doing it because they love you. They're going to pull you aside. Not rebuke you in front of everybody else. They're going to pull you aside and in love and compassion say, Hey, there's something going on. You drink way too much last night.

0 (31m 14s):

That's not okay. You shouldn't be sleeping with that person. They're going to say these things in love. And after they've looked at their own life, they've taken the plank out of their eye so that they can remove the sawdust in your own. Right? We do that in a process, but they do it in love and toward love. So this is the other thing it's toward love and good deeds. They're, they're pushing you towards something better. So these aren't the friends that just complain about everything with you. These aren't the friends that you get with to criticize your boss, the government, your church, your pastor. These are the people that are just going to be negative and critical and down. These are people that are pushing towards love. Cause doesn't our world already have enough hate and conflict and issues.

0 (31m 57s):

The friends that are always just griping and groaning and all that stuff. That's not what we need. We need people that are going to push us towards love, who are the friends that inspire me to love people and encourage people and to do good things for other people who are those people. That's what we need to be for each other to spur one another on towards good. Indeed's to, to motivate others, to inspire them, to encourage them. Who is the friends and how can I be the friends that's going to say, Hey, you know, here's a good way to do it. I want to go serve at the Denver rescue mission, but I'm kind of awkward going by myself. Will you come with me? That's a good friend. Hey, I want to serve at church. Can, can we do it together? They're motivating toward love and good deeds.

0 (32m 38s):

That's what we need. Those the type of companions we need and what we want to be

1 (32m 43s):

Need to be because somebody else needs you to do these things for them.

0 (32m 48s):

So, so are you going to do that? There are four things. It's pretty simple, right? Our team is T is that we think of others first that we, he encourage them, always a assemble in community and M motivate toward love. This is what we need. We need to be this team for other people ask not what your companions can do for you, but what you can do for your companions. Now, some of you in here are saying, Matt, I hear you. But I have tried. And it has failed. I've been there for other people. I've tried to encourage them. When their mom died. I was there with, with flowers and comfort. I sat with them, but now I'm going through this and where is that person they're gone?

1 (33m 27s):

They ditched me. I think we've all had those moments. I think I thought

0 (33m 32s):

One was a friend, but I look back. It was so one-sided. I did everything. They let me down. Or at church, I tried church. I tried a community group and those people

1 (33m 41s):

Not good. So what do we do in those situations? We keep taking it

0 (33m 49s):

Step forward. Just like Jesus calls us to on our journey because we're still focused on ourselves and we need to be the friend. And what we notice is that that's exactly what Jesus went through.

1 (34m 1s):

Think about Jesus. He was a good dude. He loved people.

0 (34m 4s):

Well, he cared about people. He served people. He had a great group of 12 friends. He spent tons of time with, he gave his life to these 12 guys.

1 (34m 12s):

He's washing their feet. Yep.

0 (34m 14s):

One of them soldiers thought he betrayed Jesus for a paltry sum of money. And when Jesus was in his most desperate point, he said, please just stay up tonight one night and pray with me. And they all fell asleep. And then Jesus was arrested by the people he came to love and serve. And when he was all by himself in desperate need Peter, his best friend denied even knowing Jesus. There's this powerful moment in the gospel of John, where Jesus is being led to be killed. And he can see through a window, Peter, who had just denied it,

1 (34m 47s):

Their eyes lock and Peter and his friends runaway

0 (34m 52s):

He's left all alone. As he's hanging on the cross, dying for these people. He loved them. Even his father in heaven. In that moment, he felt his father turned his back on him. And that's why Jesus said my God, my

God, why have you foreseen

1 (35m 6s):

Me? Jesus was all alone abandoned. But he went through that. He died for us so that we could be his friends. Wow.

0 (35m 23s):

We were his enemies. Jesus died for us to bring us to him. And that's why he even said no longer will I call you servants, but I will call you friends. She said, I died and I was alone so that you would always have a friend. And when we believe in him, not only do we have a friend in Jesus, but we also have friends surround us colleagues in the church. Yes, they're imperfect. Yes, they have flaws. But we have other companions on the same journey with us forever and always, and that's good. And that's why we choose community. That's why we say, ask not what your companions can do for you, but what you can do for your companions. So I want to encourage you to give it another shot, to try again, to think of others first, to encourage them always to assemble together in community and to make motivate towards love.

0 (36m 11s):

We keep doing this. We're always thinking of the others. How can I be the companion? Because there's other people who need it. And Jesus did it for us first. Let's pray, Lord God. I'm so grateful that you sent your son Jesus to be alone too. To know what it means to suffer and be alone and have people turn their back on them and be betrayed so that we could see him. And we can follow him knowing that when he died on the cross for us, he made us his friends for those who believe and that he would be with us always to the very end of the age, that he would never leave us and forsake us.

0 (36m 51s):

Lord, God, we are grateful that your son, Jesus is our friend today. And I pray that because of that, we would go out and be the friends, be the companions that other people around us need, that we would stop being so fixated on what I need and where's my friends. And how can I get these people? But Lord God, we would be looking outwards. The people you have put in our lives. So we could be their friend and companion help us to do that. This week with heads bowed, eyes closed. Some of you need to make Jesus, your Lord and savior today for the first time. And if you're here, you need to say a prayer today to accept Jesus as your Lord and savior. And then he will be your friend for always and never leave you. So if you're here and you already are a follow Jesus, please repeat this prayer after me to give courage to that person besides you.

0 (37m 33s):

And if this is you, that is ready to make Jesus, your Lord and savior. Say this prayer repeating after me, dear God, thank you for loving me. I'm a sinner. I need a savior. Forgive me, save me. I declare that Jesus is Lord. Fill me with your Holy spirit. Help me to follow you and serve you until I reached the goal. Amen. Now with heads bowed, eyes closed. If you said that prayer for the first time, would you please lift your hand in

the air?

0 (38m 14s):

If you're online, you can go to [rice, denver.com/connect](https://rice.denver.com/connect), click. That link that you followed. Jesus said yes. For the first time, Lord, God, we want to follow you. It's hard. It's challenging. Would you put around us the companions we need? And more importantly, would you help us be the companion that others need help? Those who are beginning their journey with Jesus, or maybe returning back to this journey with Jesus, help us to follow you. Amen.