

## RELATIONSHIP RESCUE: TRUE FRIENDSHIP

*"Reach down from heaven and rescue me; rescue me from deep waters, from the power of my enemies." ~ Psalm 144:7 (NLT)*

*"This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me." ~ John 15:12-15 (NLT)*

In a world where friendship is often **superficial**—measured in likes, comments, and followers—**do we have...**

- Friends who would **stand by us in our hardest moments**?
- Friends who would **put our needs ahead of their own**?
- Friends who would **speak our name before God in prayer**?

**As we consider our friendships today, let's ask ourselves:**

- Who in my life needs to see the love of Christ through my friendship?
- Who can I encourage, support, and pray for today?
- Am I the kind of friend Jesus has called me to be?

*"A man who has friends must himself be friendly." ~ Proverbs 18:24a (NKJV)*

*"Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions." ~ 1 John 3:18 (NLT)*

### **FIVE KEYS TO BEING A TRUE FRIEND:**

#### **1. BE CONSIDERATE**

*"Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others." ~ Philippians 2:4 (NKJV)*

*"Bearing with one another, and forgiving one another... even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection." ~ Colossians 3:13-14 (NKJV)*

#### **2. BE CONSTRUCTIVE**

*"Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers."* ~ **Ephesians 4:29 (NKJV)**

**The 30-Second Rule** – John Maxwell

*"Within 30 seconds of meeting someone, find something encouraging to say."*

### **3. BE CANDID**

*"An honest answer is like a kiss of friendship."* ~ **Proverbs 24:26 (NLT)**

"An equation for building trust in relationships." **Truth + Transparency = Trust**

### **4. BE CONFIDENTIAL**

*"A gossip goes around telling secrets, but those who are trustworthy can keep confidence."* ~ **Proverbs 11:13 (NLT)**

### **5. BE COMMITTED**

*"A friend is always loyal."* ~ **Proverbs 17:17 (NLT)**

*"Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble."* ~ **Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 (NLT)**

### **NEXT STEPS**

Become a follower of Jesus

Sign up for a connect group

Sign up for Men's Super Bowl Breakfast