The Company We Keep Chapter 4

The Forgoing of Biblical Friendship

This is a very important chapter as it gives very practical ways to have sanctifying conversations. Leveraging our current relationships to dig deeper and forge “biblical friendships.” Remember the purpose of our LifeGroups is to leverage our relationships to love and lead each other towards transformation in Christ. This does not happen with casual conversation but with Godly conversations that have focus, intent, and transparency.

1. “ Biblical Friendship is developed organically. It takes patience, commitment and liberal applications of grace. (pg 61)

The Truth about Time

1. We are a busy people. “The most important tool available to us is the ability to say Yes to some things and No to everything else.” (pg 63). Time is a resource that we must be willing to invest in others and allow others to invest in us.

Attitudes and Goals

1. “The right attitudes and goals are essential to forming and cultivating truly biblical friendships. To put in simply, biblical friendships are forged amidst a commitment to bring glory to God through this particular friendship.” (pg 64)
2. “The cultivation of a shared faith in Christ for the good of one another and the glory of God can serve as the lasting bedrock of biblical friendship.” (pg 65) Having an attitude of loving one another because of our common faith will bring God glory.

Conversation and Contexts

 This is an important section as it gives some very practical ways to dig deeper into one another’s lives.

1. Words matter, words communicate, words are essential. Words are used in prayers, songs, conversation, encourage, etc. “Ours if a faith which words are inescapably central” (pg 66)
2. Shared activities are indeed invaluable. These can include meals, church events, hospitality, acts of service, entertainment, celebrations, sports and exercises and more. While these kinds of shared activities can certainly build relationships through nonverbal means, they also provide a context for conversation- another opportunity to talk, (pg 66)
	1. I believe we don’t take advantage of these situations nearly enough to encourage, exhort, and have sanctifying conversations. How many times have we enjoyed fellowship with others but had no talk of God at all, even though it would be easy bring God into the conversations.

Shared meals: Please pass the Joy

1. Among all the shared activities that can help build biblical friendship through conversation, meals offer a special yet often-neglected opportunity. (pg 67)
2. Shared meals can create a special opportunity for thoughtful, face to face conversations.

Caring Confrontation: Beyond Happy Talk

1. Most conversation should be simple, easy and enjoyable but we should make sure we are lovingly having conversations that are sanctifying. “Sanctification involves those areas in our lives we would prefer not to talk about. Areas of weakness and vulnerability and persistent sin patterns.” (pg 68-69)
2. **Read the Kickstarter questions on pg 69. Some of these are great questions to dig deeper and I believe we should be asking some of these questions to one another on a regular basis. If you are up for it ask this question to everyone.. “Where are you struggling?”**

Go over Dig Deeper questions