

Small Group Sunday FAQs

Is the word 'small group' in
the Bible?

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Do I need to be in a small group to grow spiritually?

Small Group Sunday FAQs

So why small groups at
Grace?

WISDOM

Wisdom and Spiritual Friendship

Proverbs

WISDOM

1 Samuel 23:16. Jonathan went to find David and encouraged him to stay strong in his faith in God.(NLT)

1 Thessalonians 2:8 So we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.

I. The uniqueness of spiritual friendship.

II. The strengthening of spiritual friendship.

III. The necessity of spiritual friendship.

IV. Our great spiritual friend.

I. The uniqueness of spiritual friendship.

18:24. A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

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-Marriage: romantic bond of love.

-Family: biological bond of love.

-Friendship: you choose to love.

WISDOM

I. The uniqueness of spiritual friendship.

John 15:13. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

I. The uniqueness of spiritual friendship.

“The very condition of having Friends is that we should want something else besides Friends. Friendship must be about something, even if it were only an enthusiasm for dominoes or white mice. Those who have nothing can share nothing; those who are going nowhere can have no fellow-travellers.”

- C.S. Lewis

I. The uniqueness of spiritual friendship.

18:24. A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

Spiritual friends are discovered through adversity. The greater the journey the greater the friendship.



I. The uniqueness of spiritual friendship.

18:24. A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

You can have many companions, but you should have just a few spiritual friends.

I. The uniqueness of spiritual friendship.

**II. The strengthening of
spiritual friendship.**

III. The necessity of spiritual friendship.

IV. Our great spiritual friend.

II. The strengthening of spiritual friendship.

**4 building blocks of spiritual
friendship:**

- Constancy**
- Carefulness**
- Candor**
- Counsel**

II. The strengthening of spiritual friendship.

-Constancy.

17:17. A friend loves at all times and a brother is born for adversity.

A spiritual friend is always there for you.

II. The strengthening of spiritual friendship.

-Carefulness.

26:18-19. Like a madman who throws firebrands, arrows, and death is the man who deceives his friend and says, "I am only joking!"

A spiritual friend won't use you for a laugh.

II. The strengthening of spiritual friendship.

-Carefulness.

*17:9. Whoever covers an offense seeks love,
but he who repeats a matter separates
close friends.*

**A spiritual friend is forgiving and
forgetting.**

II. The strengthening of spiritual friendship.

-Carefulness.

25:20. Whoever sings songs to a heavy heart is like one who takes off a garment on a cold day, and like vinegar on soda.

A spiritual friend is emotionally sensitive.

II. The strengthening of spiritual friendship.

-Candor.

27:5-6. Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy.

A spiritual friend says the hard things.

II. The strengthening of spiritual friendship.

-Counsel.

*27:9. Oil and perfume make the heart glad,
and the sweetness of a friend comes from
his earnest counsel.*

**A spiritual friend shares their heart and
soul with you.**

II. The strengthening of spiritual friendship.

-Counsel.

27:17. Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.

**A spiritual friend shares your faith,
challenges your faith, and strengthens
your faith.**

- I. The uniqueness of spiritual friendship.
- II. The strengthening of spiritual friendship.
- III. The necessity of spiritual friendship.**
- IV. Our great spiritual friend.

III. The necessity of spiritual friendship.

18:1. Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment.

Isolation is selfishness that fights against God's wisdom.

III. The necessity of spiritual friendship.

20:5. The purpose in a man's heart is like deep water, but a man of understanding will draw it out.

We need someone of understanding to draw out our motivations and desires.

Ask the “why?” question.

III. The necessity of spiritual friendship.

Hebrews 3:13. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

III. The necessity of spiritual friendship.

Hebrews 3:13. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Exhort: (*parakaleo*) come alongside.

Hardened: a path, stubborn.

Sin’s deceitfulness: tricked into choosing my own selfish desires.

III. The necessity of spiritual friendship.

Hebrews 10:24-25. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

III. The necessity of spiritual friendship.

Hebrews 10:24-25. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Consider: careful thought, contemplate.

Stir up: intense, provoke, emotional.

Encouraging: (*parakaleo*), call for action.

- I. The uniqueness of spiritual friendship.**
- II. The strengthening of spiritual friendship.**
- III. The necessity of spiritual friendship.**
- IV. Our great spiritual friend.**

IV. Our great spiritual friend.

Our two problems:

- 1. We are not great at spiritual friendship.**
- 2. We long for great spiritual friends.**

IV. Our great spiritual friend.

Our two problems:

1. We are not great at spiritual friendship.

- But Jesus was the ultimate friend in our place.

IV. Our great spiritual friend.

Our two problems:

2. We long for great spiritual friends.

- Jesus is the friend our heart desires.

*John 15:15. No longer do I call you servants;
but I have called you friends...*

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27:17. Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.

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profuse are the kisses of an enemy.*

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- I need Jesus as Savior because I have failed as a spiritual friend.

IV. Our great spiritual friend.

- I need Jesus as Savior because I have failed as a spiritual friend.

- I allow Jesus to be the spiritual friend my heart desires.

IV. Our great spiritual friend.

- I need Jesus as Savior because I have failed as a spiritual friend.**
- I allow Jesus to be the spiritual friend my heart desires.**
- I am liberated to be a spiritual friend and have spiritual friends- common goal.**