

Living the Abundant Life

By Being a Friend

The abundant life cannot exist in a vacuum. It will not flourish all alone. In the words of the Almighty, it's not good for us to be alone. And yet, our culture places a high value on independence, pulling yourself up by your bootstraps, and being a self-made man or woman. It may be lonely at the top, but in our society loneliness and isolation is prevalent from the bottom to the top. But let's be honest, who really has time for a friend? Friends make demands of your time and of your attention. You have to accommodate them when you're together. It so often feels more give than take. This week's conversation explores how friendship can make or break the abundant life.

1 John 3:13-18

1. _____ comes only at the hands of friends.
2. Friends _____ what we do not _____ and _____ what we cannot _____.
3. The world "hates" the church for two reasons:
They don't _____ us ... and they _____ far too well.
4. Making disciples _____ AND _____ the church.

My Count Me In! Commitments

- I'll be here next Sunday
- I'll invite a friend
- I'll only speak well of the church ... mine and others
- I'll intentionally build a friendship with someone "different" than me
- I'll share something positive about RCC with an unchurched person this week

Additional Notes

Digging Deeper, Going Further

Monday

Read: Exodus 11

1. Why do you think God told the Israelites to ask the Egyptian people for silver and gold?
2. Why did Moses get so angry at Pharaoh? (v 8)

Reflect: What do you think the Israelites had done to deserve God's mercy from the final plague of death?

Tuesday

Read: Exodus 12

1. Why is the feast in the first Jewish month called "Passover"?
2. What was the only work the Israelites were allowed to do during the seven day festival?

Reflect: This passage repeats "The Israelites did just as the Lord commanded." What would life be like for you if you lived your life doing "just as the Lord" commands?

Wednesday

Read: Exodus 13

1. What were the fathers to tell their sons about why they eat only unleavened bread during the seven day festival? (v 8)
2. Why did God not take the Israelites along the shortest route? (v 17–18)

Reflect: God made sure the Israelites had a sign to remind them of his presence (v 21–22). What signs does God provide you to remind you of his presence?

Thursday

Read: Exodus 14

1. Why was Pharaoh upset because the Israelites had left? (v 5)
2. How did God protect the Israelites from an attack from the rear and their flanks? (v 19–20)

Reflect: How has God protected you in times of difficulty or danger?

Friday

Read: Exodus 15

1. How did God bless the Israelites?
2. How did the Israelites respond?

Reflect: Why do you think the Israelites continued to grumble against Moses? (5:20–21; 14:11–12; 15:24)

Saturday: *Who will you invite to worship with you tomorrow?*