

THE LOST ART OF FRIENDSHIP

TALK IT OVER

Truth Tellers

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If you would like to watch the weekend message, visit www.saddleback.com/watch.

Open your group in prayer, and remember that this is only a guide. Feel free to discuss each of the provided questions, or simply dive deeper into just one. Before you close with prayer, take a few minutes to look over the Three Essential Questions toward the end of the document.

Scriptures Used

Philippians 2:21, Acts 14:19-20

Questions:

1. Has anyone close to you told you something about you or something you've done that was difficult to hear but helped you grow and improve? Share how your feelings changed throughout the process.
2. How has true honesty in a friendship affected your relationship with each other?
3. Paul said in Philippians 2:21, "For everyone looks out for their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ." What does it mean to 'look out for Jesus Christ's interests'? How can we 'look out for Jesus Christ's interests' while showing concern for someone's welfare?
4. Have you helped a friend or family member find strength in God? How did you do that?
5. Has anyone ever given you permission to 'call them out' on poor decisions or actions? Did you ever have an opportunity to be truthful with them and how did they benefit?
6. Have you purposely given a friend permission to let you know when you are taking the wrong road or making a life error? Have they ever helped you to see a blind spot that you didn't realize you had and how helpful was it?

7. In Acts 14:19-20, when Paul was stoned and dragged out of the city, he had a group of believers who prayed over him in his darkest hour which resulted in giving Paul strength to go back into the city and preach to those who tried to kill him. Do you have Christians to pray with you and for you when you are in need? How does this make you feel?

Three Essential Questions

The following questions are intended to be open-ended and encourage members to consider how they felt and what they, or the group, can do as a result of hearing the message.

1. **What did you hear?** *What point in this message was most impactful for you?*
2. **What do you think?** *How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?*
3. **What will you do?** *How will you or your group put into practice what you've learned today?*

Small Group Action Steps

1. Consider taking the Group Health Assessment in your small group. This assessment will help you see how your small group is balancing the five purposes and will give you suggested next steps for each purpose. Click here to take the Group Health Assessment:
<https://saddleback.com/connect/smallgroups#spiritualCheckup>

2. Did you know that Saddleback produces many new small group studies each year? Visit <https://saddleback.com/studies> to check out Saddleback's ever-growing library of small group curriculum.

Are you interested in the Bible and in helping small groups benefit from the weekend message? Well, you are in luck! Saddleback members like you create these discussion guides each week. If you are interested in joining the team, please email Maturity@saddleback.com