

THE Big 3

EPISODE: 280

TITLE: 10 Secrets to Growing Deeper Friendships

Building strong relationships is a key factor in making disciples the way Jesus did. But many today have lost the art of friendship. You can change that.

Here are three key things to believe and consider about building deeper friendships...

1. **Being honest about who you are and allowing the “real you” to show is important in deepening friendships.** The #1 thing we all have in common, and it makes for great common ground, is our need for Jesus and the transformation his life brings to ours. Let your redemption show! Don't hide your screw-ups. When people see and hear that you are not perfect, it allows them to live openly around you and be honest too. Honesty like this builds trust in a relationship. Remember, the Kingdom of God moves at the speed of relationship, and the Gospel moves along lines of trust.
2. **God wants you to know him, and he wants to know you. Like a friend.** Your heavenly Father desires you to spend time with him, opening up your heart and life in ways that show and build trust in your relationship. Of course, you may be thinking, God knows everything... why do I need to tell him what's in my heart? Just like we love it when our friends or our kids come to us and open up their hearts, in the same way, God loves to hear your heart! The Bible reminds us that after hanging out and talking with God... “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness, and **he was called God's friend.**” *James 2:23* That can be us too!
3. Make time for people and friendships to grow by prioritizing them with your time and availability. Do you welcome interruptions throughout your day and week? Like Twyla said, *“Interruptions may appear to assault our productivity, but life is far more rewarding when we prioritize relationships over to-do lists. Interruptions are often opportunities to connect, share life, and disciple organically.”* Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you to be more open with your time and schedule when it comes to being available to neighbors, friends, and People of Peace in your life.

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Thanks for listening... I'll see you in the next episode!

Caesar