



**May 20**

**Opening Up:**

- Are you the kind of person who has “best friend”? Explain.
- How important are friendships to you?
- Do you think you are a good friend?
- What makes for a great friendship?

**Reference:** Ephesians 5:15-21; 31-33

**Discuss:**

1. What kind of friend has Jesus been for you? (John 15:13)
2. How does your reverence for the friendship of Jesus (Eph 5:21) affect your friendships with others, or even your spouse?
3. How is thankfulness and praising God with friends the right thing to pursue even when “the days are evil”? (Eph 5:15-21)
4. How does your reverence for the complete and finished work of Christ affect the way you see painful and challenging times?
5. How does the evil in this world sometimes put you in self-protection mode and what does that kind of isolation do to your relationships, or marriage?
6. “Submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ” and “bear one another’s burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ” are parallel passages. (Eph 5:21; Galatians 6:2) How is Jesus helping you to carry someone’s burden right now? How is that affecting the intimacy of that relationship? What burden do you need help carrying right now?
7. If you are married, how does living out the gospel in everyday life affect intimacy within your marriage?
8. How does friendship facilitate vulnerability? What breaks down vulnerability in a relationship?
9. How does the truth of the gospel make friendships more intimate, real, and helpful in everyday life?
10. Are you prepared, with gospel saturated friendships (or marriage), for when the evil day comes? (Eph 5:15-21)
11. Pray.