

INTRO

WELCOME TO THE APRIL PLAYBOOK.

IT CAN BE HARD TO DETERMINE WHO IS REAL IN A WORLD
THAT'S FILTERED TO PERFECTION.

MOST OF US LIVE IN THE TENSION OF WHO WE REALLY ARE AND WHO WE WANT OTHERS TO THINK THAT WE ARE. SOME OF US DON'T EVEN STRIVE TO BE BETTER VERSIONS OF OURSELVES - WE STRIVE TO BE SOMEONE ELSE ALTOGETHER AND WE CAN GET SO FIXATED ON TRYING TO IMPRESS OR EMULATE THE PEOPLE AROUND US THAT WE TEND TO SOMETIMES LOOSE OURSELVES IN THE PROCESS.

JESUS CALLS US TO RUN THE RACE SET BEFORE US, BUT WE ARE NOT CALLED TO RUN IT ALONE. THATS WHY THE FRIENDS YOU HAVE ARE SO MUCH MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOU REALIZE. THEY WILL EITHER KEEP YOU FOCUSED ON YOUR CALLING, OR PULL YOU FURTHER AND FURTHER AWAY FROM IT. THEY WILL EITHER ENCOURAGE YOU TO BE WHO YOU TRULY ARE, OR ENTICE YOU TO BECOME SOMEONE YOU ARE NOT.

SOME OF THE TOUGHEST THINGS TO NAVIGATE IN OUR DAILY LIVES WILL BE FINDING OUT WHO IS REALLY FOR ME AND WHO MAY NOT BE. WHO AM I CALLED TO BE? WHO DO I SURROUND MYSELF WITH TO KEEP ME GROUNDED AND PUSH ME FORWARD, AND HOW DO I FIND THOSE TYPE OF FRIENDS?

HANG WITH US FOR THE NEXT THREE-WEEKS AS OUR CREWS WILL TALK ABOUT FRIENDSHIP AND HOW IMPORTANT IT IS. WE'RE GOING TO LEARN HOW TO STOP PRETENDING TO BE SOMETHING (OR SOMEONE) WE'RE NOT, BASED ON THE PEOPLE WE SURROUND OURSELVES WITH (YOUR CIRCLE MATTERS). YOUR FRIENDS SHOULD LOVE YOU FOR WHO GOD CREATED YOU TO BE AND CONTINUOUSLY BE PUSHING YOU CLOSER TO A DEEPER RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

LET'S GO FAM...

IT'S ABOUT TO GET GOOD, WAREHOUSE YTH!















LET'S TALK THIS OUT



Ice-breaker: If you could be any age for the rest of your life, what age would you be and why?

- 1. How would you describe the friendships you've had over the past few years? what's been good? what's been missing?
 - 2. How can we find our identity, belonging, and value in Christ so that we can begin friendships from a place of security?
 - 3. What parts of your life are affected and influenced by a relationship with God? How can we influence additional parts of our life to reflect Christlike relationships?



My Friends Are Really For Me TALK APOUT IT



- 4. How do you think social media has affected friendships? Have you been impacted personally by social media in regard to your friendships? If so, was it a positive or negative impact?
- 5. WHAT ARE WE BEING INFLUENCED BY? How are we influencing others?



- 6. What are you looking for in someone to know if they will be a good friend or not? What does your circle look like?
 - 7. How can we represent Christ in our friendships when times are tough? How can we consistently keep Christ at the front of our friendships even when things are going good?

This week take time to notice the friends around you. Do they reflect Godly character? Do they push you forward or hold you back?











OPEN YOUR BIBLE



PROVERBS 27:17

LUKE 6:31

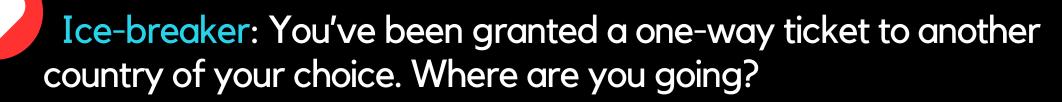


1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-7





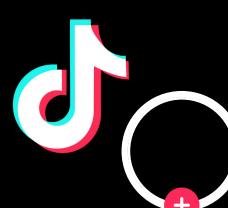




- 1. Do you have any friendships that exhibit one or more of these traits help, encouragement, and accountability? Talk about it with the group. Is that something you want? Why or why not?
 - 2. How many "truly good" friends do you have? What makes them such a good friend?
- 3. Letting people into your personal space can be difficult. What, if anything, is hard for you when it comes to friendship?
 - 4. Do you find it hard to hold friends accountable? Why or why not?



My Friends Really Push Me Forward TALK ABOUT IT



- 5. What is difficult about approaching a friend who is doing something destructive? Is there a right or a wrong way to go about that situation? (explain)
- 6. Have you experienced a trial or suffering that a friend helped you through? Explain to the group how friendship got you through it.



7. Do you fear ending friendships that aren't good for you? Why can this be so hard? How can God guide us in this?

Are there some friends this week that you need have a conversation with? A good friend can truly talk with you. If there are things between you that need to be said ... say them!



PROVERBS 17:17

PROVERBS 12:26

<u> 1 John 4:7</u>















LET'S TALK THIS OUT

Ice-breaker: Have a million dollars or get to travel anywhere you want for free for the next five years?



- 1. Just like the paralyzed man in <u>Mark Chapter 2</u> being unable to get to Jesus himself. How have you seen someone else be unable to help themselves and need their friends? Has this happened to you?
- 2. The four friends in the story had so much faith in Jesus that they didn't care what others thought about them in order to help their friend. How can our fears about what others think about us stop us from helping other people get to know Jesus? How can we combat those fears?
 - 3. The paralyzed man's friends could have given up when they saw the crowd. But they didn't. They were persistent. How easy would it have been to give up? Have you seen yourself give up on something before? What? How did your friends react?
 - 4. What's an example of a time you prayed for your friends, asking Jesus to help them?

(If you haven't done this, start thinking about a friend you could be praying for this week.)

Why is it important to be that type of friend?



I Can Really Tell My Friends Anything TALK ABOUT IT

- 5. Sometimes, we have low expectations. We might not invite our friends to Church because we expect them to say "No" or not to like it. "DO NOT BE SOMEONE ELSES NO." Talk about what that means.
- 6. What is the difference between friends and acquaintances? Does our relationship with Jesus look more like a friendship or an acquaintance? If acquaintance, how can we change that?
- 7. What are some of the unspoken expectations we put on our friends(e.g. always be available, show up at our events, text back immediately, etc.) Do we ever put expectations on God without putting any effort into the situation ourselves?

Expectations can be tough if the other person isn't aware that there are any. Do you have expectations for your friends? Do they know what you expect?

.Tell Them.

- OPEN YOUR BIBLE -

EPHESIANS 4:32



1 CORINTHIANS 15:33



PROVERBS 13:20















BONUS MATERIAL





BIBLE PLANS







Choosing Friends \



ADDITIONAL SERMONS









WORSHIP PLAYLISTS















