

Getting to the Heart of Friendships by Amy Baker

Chapter Questions

Study Guide by Joyce Karmil

Chapter 1

1. What does Genesis 2:18 tell us about how God created us in relation to relationships?
2. Why do we have friendship fiascos?
3. Which default orientation of friendships do you have? See page 6 in the book.

Chapter 2

1. What is God referring to when He talks about heart, and when we talk about heart idols?
2. What does Ezekiel 36:26-27 mean to you?
3. God gives you a new heart & now relationships are perfect? Explain why or why not.

Chapter 3

1. Why are these friendship orientations faulty?
2. What are the 5 areas we need to look at when examining our motives in friendships.
3. What should all friendships be rooted in?

Chapter 4

4. How was Samuel a friend to Saul?
5. What does the approval oriented friend fear?
6. Do you have any of the characteristics on page 27-29?

Chapter 5

1. What is the heart's desire of a control oriented friend?
2. What does this person fear?
3. What price does he/she pay?
4. Do you have any of the traits on pages 40-42?

Chapter 6

1. Is it ok to have fear? Explain.
2. Worst fear of a Protection Orientated Friend
3. This prevents you from doing what?
4. What kind of friendships will this person end up with?
5. Do you possess any of the traits on pages 55-57?

Chapter 7

1. What is the goal of Rightness-Oriented friend?
2. Do you relate to any of the characteristics on pages 69-72?

Chapter 8

1. Also known as immediate gratification, what is the pleasure-oriented friend looking for?
2. What happens to those friends not on the party train?
3. What are the acceptable costs?
4. What does she fear?

Chapter 9

1. What type of friendship is the comfort oriented friend looking for?
2. How does the comfort oriented friend disrespect God?
3. How does she disrespect others?
4. What does James 1:2-4 tell us about maturity?
5. Of the bullet points on pages 96-98, which do you identify with?

Chapter 10

1. What is the prestige oriented friend looking for?
2. Of the bullet points on pages 107-110, which do you identify with?

Chapter 11

3. What happens to our earthly friendships when we put God first?
4. According to this chapter, what does authentic friendship look like?

Chapter 12

1. According to Proverbs 16:7 what is the earthly side benefit of pleasing God?
2. To help prevent yourself from focusing on pleasing others, what question should you (repeatedly) ask yourself?
3. Eph 4:26-27 tells us to not let the sun go down on our anger, in order to obey this, we must sometimes address problems.

What 5 questions should we ask ourselves when preparing to problem solve with another?

4. When dealing with someone especially difficult to us, what is “mining for gold”?

Chapter 13

1. What does Ephesians 5:21 say about control?
2. What is true leadership (Mark 10:42-44)?
3. What does allowing others give to you do for a friendship?
4. Do any of the bulleted points on page137 apply to you?

Chapter 14

1. What does an authentic friend desire in place of avoiding hurt?
2. What does 1 Peter 1:6-7 say about trials?
3. How can pain be a friend to you?

Chapter 15

1. What is the purpose of the law?
2. How is 1 Timothy 1:15-16 meant to encourage others?
3. How can your testimony encourage others?

Chapter 16

1. Ecclesiastes 2:11, after evaluating, what did Solomon conclude pleasure seeking was?
2. What pleasure is the former pleasure oriented friend looking for now?
3. What is their new joy & delight?

Chapter 17

1. What is the acceptable cost of turning away from a comfort oriented friendship?
2. 2 Cor 8:9 tells us what about this type of friendship?
3. Take the survey on pages 188-189
4. Are these results what you expected? Why or Why not?

Chapter 18

1. Whose reputation should we fiercely protect?
2. What does 1 Peter 4:10 tell us about authentic friendship?

Final Assignment

Write a 1-2 page paper on the following:

Looking back over the various friendship orientations on the pages listed below (the common thread being selfishness, being self focused vs God focused or others focused). Please identify which you struggle with most frequently. For example, you might see yourself as an approval oriented friend, and struggle with points 1, 2 & 5, and also see yourself struggle with bullet point 3 under rightness oriented and points 2 & 7 under comfort oriented.

Give a plan on how you can work on turning this orientation into a God-pleasing orientation. Use examples from your life, and what you plan to do to improve. How can an accountability partner help you with this plan?

The Approval Oriented Friend, pages 27-29 (8 bullet points to choose from)

The Control-Oriented Friend, pages 40-42 (9 bullet points)

The Protection-Oriented Friend, pages 55-57 (9 bullet points)

The Rightness Oriented Friend, pages 69-72 (10 bullet points)

The Pleasure Oriented Friend, pages 81-84 (11 bullet points)

The Comfort Oriented Friend, pages 96-98 (8 bullet points)

The Prestige Oriented Friend, pages 107-111 (9 bullet points)