














Small Group/ Reflection Notes

	16.01.22	New Year, New You: Relationships	
 Start	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Grab a pen and paper: summarise your day / week / year so far in no more than 140 characters (including letters, numbers, spaces) <input type="checkbox"/> You've just written a tweet!  Proverbs reads like nuggets of wisdom, filtered down into just a verse at a time, like a tweet! 		
 Discuss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Think about the friendships you have and are part of; how would you define friendship? <input type="checkbox"/> Why is friendship important? 		
 Read	Proverbs 27:1-10	 Listen again	ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/Watch ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/Talks
 Explore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Do you agree that we <u>need</u> friends? Why do you think this is? What evidence do you have to support your view? <input type="checkbox"/> How do you know if a friendship is good, strong or genuine? What do you understand by the term 'false friend'? <input type="checkbox"/> v.2: Why do you think the writer considers it wisdom for an 'outsider' to praise you, rather than to boast? How can we ensure we have people in our lives who encourage us and build us up? <i>Take a moment to pause and identify these people in your own life.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> What's the difference between flattery and genuine encouragement? Do they have different outcomes? How can you discern them? <input type="checkbox"/> v.5: How do we respond to rebuke from a friend who speaks from a place of love and concern? Why is it hard to do, and to receive? Can you think of examples in your own experiences? <input type="checkbox"/> Can you think of examples where Jesus speaks truth in love to his nearest and dearest? <input type="checkbox"/> v.6: How does Jesus model to us how to respond to kisses from an enemy? How might this translate into reality for us? <input type="checkbox"/> Jesus picks up on this in Matthew 18:15. What does it say about your friendship if you are not prepared to speak truth into someone's life, to show them that God's got something better for them? Why do you think Jesus advises us to take the speck out of our own eye first? <input type="checkbox"/> v.9: What does it mean to give heartfelt advice? <input type="checkbox"/> Jesus models friendship in his relationships with the 12 disciples; what can we learn from his example? 		

 Go further	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Read 1 Thessalonians 5:11-15. What practical tips does Paul give the church here to help them spread the perfume of friendship? <input type="checkbox"/> How does being in a small group enable you to live these out? What difference do you think small groups make to being part of a church family?
 Reflect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Which one verse stands out to you? Why do you think it grabs your attention? <input type="checkbox"/> Which verse(s) will you need to think more about? Why? <input type="checkbox"/> What is God putting on <i>your</i> heart?
 Do	<p>Having reflected at the beginning of this session on the friendships you have, think about how you could spread the sweet fragrance of Jesus in these relationships. Share with your small group what you will do this week to encourage and build up others.</p>
 Pray	<p>Father God, thank you for creating us to be in relationship with You and each other. Lord Jesus, I praise you because you have invited me to be in a friendship with you. Holy Spirit, please help me to be a good friend to those you have put in my life. Amen.</p>
 My questions:	

*If you're not yet in a small group, why not join one! Check out: ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/SmallGroups
 Can't see a group to suit your availability/interest? Start one! SmallGroups@ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk*