

## Proverbs: Friendship

### Constancy

17:17 A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.

18:24 One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

### Transparency

27:5 Better is open rebuke than hidden love.

27:6 Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.

### Counsel

27:9 Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of a friend springs from their heartfelt advice.

27:17 As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

### Tactful

25:17 Seldom set foot in your neighbor's house— too much of you, and they will hate you.

27:14 If anyone loudly blesses their neighbor early in the morning, it will be taken as a curse.

25:20 Like one who takes away a garment on a cold day, or like vinegar poured on a wound, is one who sings songs to a heavy heart.

26:18-19 Like a maniac shooting flaming arrows of death is one who deceives their neighbor and says, "I was only joking!"

- There are two words used for "friend" in Hebrew. One is closer to what we think of, a companion, but is not very common. Most often is the same word for a neighbor. Context can help see when neighbor should be understood as a friend vs. someone who lives nearby. But remember, people in the ancient world would most likely be friends with neighbors, where words for enemies can be associated with people who live far away.
- The categories above come from Derek Kinder's commentary on Proverbs
- The idea of tactful is that a friend know when and how to speak. They know what isn't funny, when encouragement is more hurtful than helpful, or when to give you space.

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## Questions

1. What are the traits of your good friends?
2. What makes friendship hard these days?
3. How is friendship different family? Why is that helpful?
4. What traits of friendship do you think you do well with, and which ones do you think are harder for you? Why?
5. What might God be challenging you with when it comes to friendship?