



## SESSION II: BEING A FRIEND

### 1—LISTENING IN FRIENDSHIPS

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What does the Bible say about *not* listening? Read Proverbs 18:13.

Brenda and her friend Dylan were talking one day. Dylan wanted to ask her advice about a girl he was interested in—hoping to get some inside information. However, every time he asked Brenda a question, she would answer with something that was completely off the wall. Dylan began to suspect that she really wanted to talk about what *she* would do and not listen to him at all.

What does Proverbs 18:13 say a person is who answers before listening?

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Why is really listening so important in building friendships—especially with people who are the opposite gender?

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How does listening to another person show that you respect him or her?

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Spend a few minutes talking to God, and then practice *listening* to what He says! Remember that listening to your friends is a good way to show that you care about them and value the friendship.

## 2—HIDDEN QUALITIES

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What sort of qualities should you be looking for in a friend? See God's answer in 1 Samuel 16:7.

The word "quality" when it refers to a person means all the little things that make that person who he or she is. They are the things that make each person special and unique. Check which of the qualities you look for in a friend:

- ☐ Good looking
- ☐ Friendly and funny
- ☐ Parents are rich
- ☐ Loves Jesus
- ☐ Is a good listener and gives good advice
- ☐ Encourages you
- ☐ Shares your interests

When choosing friends, it is important to not only look on the outside but also get to really know that person. Why is this especially true in guy/girl friendships?

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What would be the benefits of knowing a person's inner qualities and having a good friendship with that person before you decide to date each other?

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Today, ask God to help you look past the surface and get to really know your friends.

## 3—ON A MISSION

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Turn to Ecclesiastes 4:9 for some more math problems.

Charity and Aaron had gone to school together forever, played soccer on the same team, and went to the same church. Charity liked the way Aaron cared about other people, and Aaron liked

how Charity was always willing to share about Jesus. During Spring Break, Charity and Aaron went on a missions trip to Mexico, where they put on puppet shows, played *pata pata ganso* (duck duck goose), served sandwiches and lemonade, and even prayed for a few kids together.

Charity and Aaron both agreed it was an amazing week, for each got the chance to see the other person using his or her spiritual gifts for God. They loved working together to help others. In time the two eventually started dating, and today they are married and continue to use their abilities for God!

Would you ever consider going with the person you care about on a “date” where you are working together to help those in need? Why or why not?

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What would be different about this kind of date rather than a regular date?

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Do you think you would learn more or less about the person?

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Why not give this kind of date a try and see what happens!

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## 4—GODLY FRIENDSHIPS

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Why is it important to choose godly friends? See Proverbs 13:20 for the answer.

Think about the television shows and movies you watch. In those movies and shows, what are some things that the guys and girls do together?

- ☐ Go bowling and hang out as friends
- ☐ Work together

- ☐ Yell at each other
- ☐ Kill vampires together
- ☐ Live together, but not as a married couple

Do you think these shows and movies are telling you the truth about what godly relationships with the opposite gender are supposed to be? Why or why not?

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Do your relationships with the opposite sex honor God? Why or why not?

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Today, ask God to give you a clear picture of how guys and girls should relate to each other in a godly relationship. Study your Bible and talk to Christian couples about their relationships. As you learn, begin to treat your relationships in a new way!