



## Week One | Toy Story - Friendship | 06.26-27.2021

**Grow Deep Conversation Questions:** Use these questions to help you process the message in your personal time of study or with your group. Time suggestions are based on a 90-minute group gathering.

**Message Recap:** Toy Story highlights friends who go to great lengths to help each other face obstacles and grow deeper relationships than they've had before. The Bible talks a lot about friendships, and there are important lessons we can learn as we redeem some of the themes from this classic movie series. We have more connections but we are less connected; we have more 'friends' but far fewer friendships.

### » Opening

(2-3 minutes)

- Introductions - this is especially important if this is your first meeting and if there are new members
- Housekeeping - clarify expectations
  - Remind your group that this is a confidential meeting
  - **Remember there may be many thoughts and views. Please remain kind and respectful during conversations.**
- Pray - open your time together in prayer

### » Introduction

(12 minutes)

- Ice-Breaker: What are some traits of your "ride-or-die" friends?
- Digging Deeper: What are the implications of having friends in your "core" versus just having friends in your community?

### » Observation | Read 1 John 3:11-24; John 15:12-15; Romans 12:10,11; Proverbs 17:17

(12 minutes)

- What are your initial reactions to these passages? What do you find challenging? Are you encouraged by any of these verses? Why?

### » Key Principle | The greatest followers of Jesus are the greatest friends too.

(12 minutes)

- Who has seen your worst but brings out your best? What would it take to invite them closer?
- Who has seen your best but brings out your worst? What kind of boundaries do you need to set up to protect yourself?

### » I've set my laser from stun to kill | Reread 1 John 3:11-15

(12 minutes)

- Can you think of a time when someone set their relational weapons to "kill" you?

### » To infinity...and beyond! | Reread 1 John 3:16-18

(12 minutes)

- Who is someone in your life that has modeled the love of Jesus to you? How is this love different from "worldly" love?

### » You've got a friend in me | Reread 1 John 3:19-24

(12 minutes)

- When have you bailed on a relationship because you were only looking for surface-level relationships that benefited you? How can you shift your mindset toward loving one another in the same way that Jesus has loved you?

### » Next Steps and Prayer | Reread John 15:12-15

(15 minutes)

- Talk as a group about the following suggestions for inviting people into your "core." Which one is the most difficult for you?
  - Find a common interest; Ask them for THEIR story; Create margin for real friendships, none of this happens in a microwave.
  - If you struggle with intimacy and vulnerability, it may be beneficial for you to find a counselor who can help you process.
- Close by praying for each other to willingly step into deeper and more meaningful relationships that bring out the best in you both.