

Friendship

1. In a culture where the term 'friend' is used so lightly, how would you describe friendship?
2. As Christians we often speak about 'having fellowship' or 'living in community' to describe the way that we relate to other believers. Is this the same as friendship or is friendship something different?
3. Why do we need friendships?
4. Is friendship a Biblical concept?
5. What are the dangers of growing older without close human relationships?
6. What are the internal and external factors that can cause us to resist developing genuine relationships at a deep level? Do you find it difficult to make close friendships? Why do you think that is?
7. What are the ingredients of a deep lasting friendship – either as individuals or within a group context? (Think of key words that would epitomise the quality of such relationships)
8. What does it take to nurture and to sustain this kind of relationship?
9. Both McDonald and Brain include a number of roles that close friends can play in our lives. Are you able to identify the friends who fulfil those roles in your life? How have these relationships been significant?
10. If you don't have these relationships at the moment, what can you do to develop them?