



Youth Ministry
September 29, 2013

extreme Friends

Starting Sundays on
September 8th At 9:15am

Lesson:

This week we reviewed the past several weeks discussing using God's wisdom when choosing our friends and when dealing with conflict in our friendships.

The Bible says that there is a season for everything under the heavens and it's okay if your friendship comes to an end. We talked about the many different reasons a friendship could end including when a friendship becomes unhealthy or even dangerous. We learned that there sometimes comes a point in a friendship when you have to end it for your own well being.

We talked about how "Bad company corrupts good character" and if we allow "Bad Company" such as greed, selfishness, anger, temptation, envy, apathy, bitterness, etc. into our "Best Friends" circle, their influence can draw us away from God and even build a wall of separation between us and God. We said that we need to come back to our senses and stop sinning as well as removing any "Bad Company" friends from our lives.

We learned how we can use our "friendship circles" from last week to help examine our friends and make sure they are placed in the correct circle. We talked about three types of friends. Those with a **Positive Effect** on us are the ones that we want to keep. They help us grow and we help them grow. Those with a **Neutral Effect** on us give us a chance to represent for God and be the salt and the light that Jesus commanded us to be. Those friends with a **Negative Effect** on us need to be re-evaluated and either corrected or they may need to be let go, especially if they are dangerous. There is only so much you can do for them without letting them pull you down. At some point, you need to turn it over to God and trust that he will take care of them.

We said that, just like with conflict, the best way to end a friendship is calmly, face to face and sooner rather than later as the longer you wait, the more difficult it becomes. It is always better to end in grace rather than in anger. We need to also remember to seek God's wisdom and pray for the conversation, the other person and also yourself.

We concluded by saying that above all else we should not settle for less with our friendships and should not be afraid to let go of unhealthy friendships if needed. Just like we said about bullies, your friends do NOT define you. God has defined who you are, in Christ Jesus, since before you were born.

Next week we wrap up our Extreme Friends series with a review and summary.

Bible Verse: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

3 There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:

- 2 a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot,
- 3 a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build,
- 4 a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance,
- 5 a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
- 6 a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away,
- 7 a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak,
- 8 a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

Bible Verse: 1 Corinthians 15:33-34

33 Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character." 34 Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God—I say this to your shame.