

– Proverbs 12.26 –
Words to Teens 5
Friends

*Proverbs 12.26 The righteous should choose his friends carefully,
For the way of the wicked leads them astray.*

* **How do** we typically answer the question, “What is a true friend?”

* **So many** friends don’t _____ friends. Two people are close friends until they _____. And then they are usually _____. What account do they usually give?

* **In the** Bible, and in life, most conflicts, betrayals, animosity, and hatred are among those who are supposedly, or were formerly, _____.

* **At the** same time, the Bible teaches us that there is such a thing as a friend in the truest and fullest sense of the word, but they are extremely _____ and are worth their weight in _____.

Prov 18.24 A man of many friends [rea] comes to ruin, But there is a friend [aheb] who sticks closer than a brother.

Lev 19.18 ... you shall love your neighbor [rea] as yourself ...

Prov 3.27 Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, When it is in your power to do it. 28 Do not say to your neighbor [rea], “Go, and come back, And tomorrow I will give it,” When you have it with you.

* **What two** points from CS Lewis’ *The Four Loves* help us understand what Solomon is getting at in our text?

1) Friendship is based on common _____.

2) Friendship _____ the characteristics of those in the circle for good or ill.

* **Solomon’s** point is, _____ what a true friend is, and _____ your friends carefully.

* **Name two** Bible characters that show us what true friendship is: _____ and _____.

– What are the key characteristics of their friendship?

* **In true** friendship, these 3 things always line up: the _____ of God, the _____ of your friend, and your own _____. But only true _____ in God can enable you to see that and act on it. Only then are you _____ to seek a friend’s blessing and receive God’s blessing for doing so.

