

Spend five days this week living with the weekend message.

Huddle Up Often! September 8–9, 2007

Successful relationships are a significant key to success in life

1. Who encourages you?
2. Who believes in you?
3. Who mentors/coaches you?
4. Who prays for you?
5. Who inspires you?

1 SAMUEL 18:1-3

When David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan and David became bound together in close friendship. Jonathan loved David as much as he did his own life. ²Saul retained David on that day and did not allow him to return to his father's house. ³Jonathan made a covenant with David, for he loved him as much as he did his own life.

1 SAMUEL 23:16

Then Jonathan son of Saul left and went to David at Horesh. He encouraged him through God.

MARK 2:1-12

A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. ²So many gathered that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. ³Some men came, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four of them. ⁴Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on. ⁵When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

⁶Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

⁸Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? ⁹Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk?' ¹⁰But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins . . ." He said to the paralytic, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." ¹²He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

DAY 1

Read Mark 2:1-12. Jesus was popular because he was wise and impacted people's lives through healing. List some problems that paralyzed people have.

Re-read verses 2-4. What stands out to you about the friendships described in this passage? Describe the emotions you imagine were going through the paralytic's head as his friends were getting him to Jesus.

DAY 2

Read Mark 2:1-12. What is Jesus' response to the paralytic? Whose faith did Jesus look at before he healed the paralytic? (verse 5) Is there something that is "disabling" you . . . keeping you from a close relationship with Jesus? Write it down.

The paralytic couldn't get himself to Jesus . . . he was brought by his friends. Who brings you to Jesus when you feel unable to get there yourself? Write them a note thanking them for "carrying you" to Jesus. (If you can't list anyone, spend some time thinking and praying about who that could be for you.)

DAY 3

Read Mark 2:1-12; 1 Samuel 18:1-3; 23:16. David and Jonathan are a classic biblical example of friendship; the depth of their friendship is described as: "the soul of Jonathan was bound with the soul of David."

Make a list of friends you can count on during the tough times of life (remember that Jonathan's Dad was trying to kill David during their friendship). This weekend Cal listed 5 roles you need people to fill in your life (see the list on top of 1st page). From your list of friends you can count on, who can fill these roles in your life?

DAY 4

Read Mark 2:1-12; 1 Samuel 18:1-3; 23:16. Ask God to show you any new insights on friendship. Write them down (you want to remember that kind of stuff)! Yesterday we made a list of people who you could count on. Today, make a specific list of people who can count on you. Who is someone in your life that you are helping get to Jesus? What is your next step in helping them know Jesus' love for them?

We live in a very isolated world, but this message of rugged independence flies in the face of what God tells us in scripture when He talks about believers being the body of Christ (Ephesians 4). What different roles are you filling in people's lives?

DAY 5

Read Mark 2:1-12 and 1 Samuel 18:1-3 23:16 and look back over your answers from Days 1-4; what comes to your mind as you re-read these scriptures and your previous thoughts? What might be one (or more) thing(s) that you could do in response to His Word? Be specific.

What specific plan can you make as a next step? (think actions like: write thank you notes to people who play different roles in my life or have 3 conversations to recruit people to impact my life through filling a certain role . . .)

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