

Small group optional guide: New Ground Sunday: True Friendship

UP; we grow in our love for Jesus through His word and worship

WORD: brought by Simon Quincey from King's Oxted

“We are called and challenged to live intimately connected lives, we must be intentional about forging true friendships between believers.”

- Testimony from Lewis
- this story illustrates a God inspired, sacrificial act of love that led to a friendship(s).

God is interconnected: as image bearers we are called to be part of loving, intimate, relationships with God and one another

Guess who game: Please think of all those you call friends, whittle it down to non-family, close friends, those who actively apprentice after Jesus, those who you have given permission to speak into your life (to build you up and correct you)...we all desire these true friends. (if you haven't got one like this, get one)

- the Bible says having terrific friendships is entirely necessary; in a discipleship context, true friendship with other believers enable them to glorify God and thrive

what are the characteristics of a true friendship?

1. Close (Proverbs 18:24) 2. Constant (Proverbs 19:4, 1 Samuel 18, 1 Samuel 23:16) 3. Candid (Proverbs 27:5-6) 4. Careful (Proverbs 18:13,21)

5. Christ centred - Precious are friends that don't let us forget the Gospel, that point us to the sufficiency of Christ. Who encourage us to lay down our lives as we show them the greatest love. Jesus described it this way in John 15:13

What if I don't have friends like these?

Accept it will take time, be bold (don't choose people

just like you), invite someone to become this friend, be intentional (put times in your diary), be clear (5 C's true friendship that encourages you to walk with Jesus)

Questions to choose from:

- What impacted you from Lewis' testimony?
- What particular challenges/obstacles are there in making deeper friendship?
- How did Jesus model friendship, what did he say regarding his friends?
- Which of the 5 Cs of Friendship, stuck out to you the most?
- What is God saying to you about forging true friendships, what do you think you need to do about that?

WORSHIP: Hosanna / Great Are You Lord/Gratitude / I Speak Jesus / Yeshua/Our Father

IN; we connect and learn to love one another

Run through the questions above and be vulnerable, if you don't have any 5 C friends who encourage you, challenge you and support you to walk under the Lordship of Christ – decide to make some tonight, plan to meet up...(this might look just like a peer discipleship group!)

OUT; we reach out to show people outside of JCC that God loves them

<https://www.jcceg.co.uk/blog/gift-day-october-2024/>

Read the blog, we are praying to raise £55,000, discuss how you come to a figure of what you give (there is no need to share that figure)

[Here is more information about Streetlife Zambia](https://www.streetlifezambia.org/)

Putting smiles back on children's faces - Streetlife Zambia <https://www.streetlifezambia.org/>



STREETLIFE ZAMBIA



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Streetlife Zambia is a Christian organisation **working with the Government** against poverty and to raise orphaned **children to** become shining lights as Christian adults.

Today Streetlife feeds more than 600 children four times a week in Luangwa, Kapoto and Lukoshi, three of Kitwe's most impoverished compounds, this is where we identify orphans and vulnerable children whom we bring into the centres

In its orphanages in Nkana West and Luangwa, it also provides homes for children who have lost their parents, many to HIV and AIDS, and young people whose families simply cannot afford to look after them any more.

Streetlife was founded and is run by Lilly Mwila, wife of Joseph Mwila who leads 40+ Newfrontiers churches in Zambia





STREETLIFE ZAMBIA



Our girls' and boys' orphanages in Kitwe currently provide homes for more than 50 children. Many of our children also attend our primary school, Dayspring Academy, situated on the site of the boys' orphanage.



With the help of our generous sponsors, we help hundreds of young children from all over Zambia to continue their education by paying for their school fees and providing shoes, uniform and equipment.



**Sponsor a
Streetlife
child today**

www.waymaker.org.uk/sponsor-a-child/

STREETLIFE ZAMBIA



With the help of some partners at charity WayMaker we now have a school from Baby Class right up to Secondary school with the Moto: Nurturing tomorrow's leaders.

We also have established what we call a Breakfast club, where we feed our children that are in our two homes and those under our care but come from their parent's homes but fail to afford all the meals.

