



PRACTICAL PROVERBS

WEEK OF MARCH 15, 2026

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THE POWER OF A TRUE FRIEND

SPEAKER: PASTOR MIKE BURNETTE

ICEBREAKER



THIS WEEK IS BRINGING STORMS, FREEZING TEMPERATURES, AND WARM WEATHER, ALL IN ONE WEEK. WHICH SIDE ARE YOU ON?

A TRUE FRIEND WILL MAKE YOU SHARP! (PROVERBS 27:17)

- *You need other strong, godly friends in your life to push you to be a better you. Who is that in your life? How are they improving you? Who are you sharpening in their Christian walk?*

A TRUE FRIEND WILL CALL YOU OUT (PROVERBS 27:6)

- *Accountability helps us grow and be better versions of ourselves. Who holds you accountable? How do they do that? Is it hard for you to allow someone to hold you accountable? How has their correction made you a better you?*
- *Correction is often unpleasant, but it is necessary. How do you avoid being offended by correction and instead receive it as a gift from God through our friends?*
- *How do you call someone out in Christian correction without being judgemental? Give examples.*

A TRUE FRIEND WILL MAKE YOU WISE (PROVERBS 13:20)

- *You become like who you hang around. You are the average of the five people you are around the most. What does that look like? Is it positive or negative? Do you have certain friends that allow you to be foolish and do you have other friends that hold you to a higher standard? Why do you hold onto the friends that allow you to be foolish?*

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- *Have you ever, or do you currently, have an area in your life that you need to be held accountable in? How do you pick a friend that you can trust to give you honest and Godly corrections in that area?*
- *Evaluate the friends you're closest to. Are they improving you? Are they making you a better you?*

A TRUE FRIEND IS A SPECIAL CHOICE (PROVERBS 12:26)

- *The most spiritual thing you can do is just make good choices. Are the friends closest to you carefully and intentionally chosen so that they are a blessing to you and you are a blessing to them? Describe what this looks like.*
- *Do you approve of the friends your child has? How do you get to know them well enough to know how their behavior will affect your child's behavior? How do you regulate who your child spends time with, in order to protect them from predatory friends who are not good for your child to be around?*

THE BEST OF FRIENDS IS JESUS (PROVERBS 18:24)

- *You may be a person with many friends, but without a deep and personal life with Jesus, you will still come to ruin. How are you seeking friendship with Him?*
- *Is Jesus your best friend? How are you working to develop, deepen, and cultivate that friendship?*
- *If you lost it all, would you still have the most important friend, Jesus?*
- *Does Jesus know you well enough to call you His friend? Why or why not?*

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ACT ON IT



ENCOURAGE

In Proverbs 27:17 it states that iron sharpens iron and one man sharpens another. God never meant for us to do life alone, or Christianity alone or even ministry alone. Men, you need other godly men to sharpen you as a man, husband, and father, and ladies, you need other ladies to sharpen you as a woman, a wife, and a mother. Above all, we need friends to sharpen us as followers of Jesus.



ASK

Spend time with God this week, and ask Him for guidance in answer this question; What steps do you need to take to increase your relationship and intimacy with Him?



CHALLENGE

Evaluate your closest friends. Are they making you better? Are they improving the various areas of your life? Are you currently in relationships that help you? If you want to be a better follower of Jesus, get around Godly people! Be very intentional with who you choose to do life with. You're not stuck with bad friends. You can actually make better choices. Pray and ask God to help you choose wisely and select friends that will build your life in Christ.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you so much for being my best friend. Lord, I ask you today to reveal to me those friends who are not life giving to me. I ask today, Lord, that you would guide me toward relationships that ARE life-giving and will help me to become an even stronger follower of Jesus Christ. I thank you that I was not put on this earth to do life alone, I'm ready to be all in with you and surround myself with friends that will point me even closer to you. I love you, Lord, thank you for sharing this word with me this week. Amen.