

FRENEMIES

Part 1

Key Scriptures: James 3:13-18; Proverbs 14:12; Matthew 10:34; Luke 22:42

1. Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- What famous person, past or present, do you think could have been your best friend? What about them makes you think so?
- If 1 is the loneliest number, where is the loneliest place on earth?

2. Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- In James 3:13, James asks, “Who is wise and understanding among you?” Is he taunting his readers or is he asking them in a genuine way? Why do you think so?
- What standard does he give to know who is wise and understanding? (vs 13-18)
- There is a phrase, “Good is the enemy of the Best.” How does that apply when you consider wisdom that comes from Heaven versus wisdom that is earthly?
- Craig Groeschel said, “People would prefer to follow a leader who is always real rather than a leader who is always right.” Would you agree or disagree? Why or why not?

3. Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Why is it so hard to open up and talk about concerns that we have?
- Why is it so hard . . . to live in peace . . . with the people that we love?
- If you were offered some freshly made brownies, with the warning that the brownie mix had a small hole chewed in it, and there was no way of knowing if mice or cockroaches got in it... what percentage of impurities would you tolerate before you would refuse to eat one? What “impurities” are you bringing into relationships that you expect others to accept?
- Who is the best leader you know/have known? What qualities do they have that make them stand out?

4. Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

- Ask Jesus to help you in your relationships. Let them be:
 - PURE
 - PEACE-LOVING
 - CONSIDERATE
 - SUBMISSIVE
 - MERCIFUL
 - IMPARTIAL
 - SINCERE.

5. Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Reflect on a relationship that you have in your family, a relationship that you have at work, and a relationship that is not as strong as it used to be. Choose one of the attributes of a good relationship that we are praying for and devise a tangible way to act on it this next week in these three people's lives.