



Small Group Discussion Guide

May 21, 2017

Sermon Title:

"When Friends Become Family"

Sermon Text: John 19:25-27

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-10

Leader: *Please allow a moment for introductions/visiting, and then have someone offer a brief prayer for God to meet with your group.*

Getting Started: If you had a family crisis going on, who would be the first person you called? Are they family- or a friend?

Discussion:

1. Jesus was dying. He was hanging on the cross with only hours to minutes to live. In that brief time, (when he uttered 7 sayings), he took the time to establish a caring relationship between his Mother, Mary, and his closest friend, the Apostle John. What does that say about Jesus' and John's relationship?
2. Did Jesus have any other family he could have entrusted Mary to? (Reference: Matthew 13:55, 56) How many in total?
3. Do you know what it's like to have siblings or other family NOT believe in you or support you and your life dreams and goals? (Reference: John 7:5) Jesus knows!
4. The Pastor mentioned a few things that help us establish relationships with our closest friends that may become even closer than our "blood relatives." Here are a few:
 - * Mutual love.
 - * Faithfulness
 - * Shared Values
 - * Field-tested Endurance
5. Can you think of examples where people have stepped up for you and filled in a gap your family may have created?
6. To whom can you serve as a "surrogate" family? (There are many lonely people in the world today.)
7. What opportunities will you take this week to show familial love? Are there those in church you would like to develop a closer relationship with? What is preventing you from doing that?

Closing: Close by praying for each other. Go **SHARE JESUS . . . in Service!**