

Friendology

DEPENDENCY * DIVERSITY * DILIGENCE

PART 3: CHALLENGING FRIENDSHIPS

With our society as divided as ever, we—as Jesus followers—have the opportunity to model how to cultivate a culture of diverse friendships.

WIN

To value people whose views are different from our own

CONNECT

Here are some ways people differ. When it comes to each question, which one do you prefer?

- Morning person or night owl?
- Cake or ice cream?
- Book or movie?
- Comedy or drama?
- Camping in a tent or staying in a cabin?

LEARN

Before watching the video together and discussing the questions provided, we suggest taking a few moments to pray. Here's a simple prayer you can use:

Heavenly Father, help us to not only show kindness to people who see things differently from us, but also see the value they add to our lives. Amen.

After praying, watch the video for Part 3.

APPLY

For married groups during this study, consider having the men and women discuss separately. That is, after watching the video together, have the men or women relocate to a different room for discussion. Here are some questions to guide your time together:

1. When it comes to weightier topics, do you consider yourself a safe person for people with views that oppose yours? What makes you say that? What would those closest to you say? Would your social media posts over the last year be in agreement with your self-assessment?
2. Share a time when someone you knew shared an important opinion that opposed yours and perhaps even surprised you. Did that opposing view impact your relationship? If so, how?



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3. Read **Colossians 3:11–17**. What was Paul telling the Jesus followers in Colossae is the “main thing” in life? How can what he wrote in this passage help Jesus followers navigate hard times in relationships?
4. What could it look like for our group to practice curiosity? Discuss how you could respond to another group member if you are tempted to disregard something he or she says (e.g., “Tell me more about how you came to believe that.”).
5. Is there a relationship you’ve given up on because of differing views? Is so, with whom? Is it possible you gave up on the relationship prematurely? Why or why not?

PRAY

Ask God to help the people in your group grow in genuine friendships, even with those who don’t always agree with their perspectives.

