



## Part 4 // Christine Birch // August 27, 2023

**Scripture:** 1 Samuel 18:1-4, 1 Samuel 20:41-42, Ruth 1:1-17, 2 Timothy 1:2, 1 Timothy 4:12, 1 Corinthians 4:17

**Bottom Line:** Intention today is the link to meaning friendship tomorrow.

### Discuss:

1. Think back to your childhood best friend. What was so special about that first closest friendship?
2. Would you consider yourself a good friend to others? Why or why not?
3. Read 1 Samuel 18:1-4 and 1 Samuel 20:41-42.
  - a. What can you learn about friendship from these two passages?
  - b. What do the words 'decide' and 'commit' have to do with friendship?
  - c. Are these principles still relevant in relationships today?
4. Read Ruth 1:1-17.
  - a. What do you notice about relationships in this passage?
  - b. Do you know someone in your life who is a sacrificial friend? What are your impressions of that person?
  - c. In what ways have you experienced the sacrifice and commitment in a friendship similar to the relationship between Ruth and Naomi?
5. Read 2 Timothy 1:2, 1 Timothy 4:12, 1 Corinthians 4:17.
  - a. Do you have any unlikely friends or friends in a different life stage? What have you learned through these relationships?
  - b. Have you ever had a mentor? Have you ever been a mentor? What was that experience like?
  - c. How can intentional investment lead to meaningful relationships?
6. How can you apply the lessons from Jonathan, Ruth and Paul in your own life to foster deeper and more meaningful friendships?

### Moving Forward:

Take time to consider the two challenges Christine left us with in her message:

1. Today, I will take a step towards \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The intentional step I will take is \_\_\_\_\_.

What specific intention can you set today to take steps toward fostering meaningful friendships in your life? Pray with each other for the courage to follow through. Discuss if you are open to being held accountable in this area this week.