

the whole story: Part 4
Choose Wise Friends

TALK IT OVER

Key Scriptures:

Job 2:¹¹ Now when Job's three friends heard of all this evil that had come upon him, they came each from his own place, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. They made an appointment together to come to show him sympathy and comfort him. ¹² And when they saw him from a distance, they did not recognize him. And they raised their voices and wept, and they tore their robes and sprinkled dust on their heads toward heaven. ¹³ And they sat with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his suffering was very great.

Job 42:⁷ After the Lord had spoken these words to Job, the Lord said to Eliphaz the Temanite: "My anger burns against you and against your two friends, for you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has. **8** Now therefore take seven bulls and seven rams and go to my servant Job and offer up a burnt offering for yourselves. And my servant Job shall pray for you, for I will accept his prayer not to deal with you according to your folly. For you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has." **9** So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite went and did what the Lord had told them, and the Lord accepted Job's prayer.

1 John 2:¹ But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

Isa 9:⁶ Wonderful Counselor

2 Cor 5:¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.

Heb 13:⁵ "I will never leave you nor forsake you"

Start Talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- How old is your oldest friendship?
- What is something special you like to do with your closest friends?

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

- One pastor has said of Job's friends, "with friends like these, who needs enemies?" What were some of the traits Job's friends displayed that made them bad friends? Be sure to define the difference in context of "wise" and "unwise" friends.
- What did God say in Job 42 to assure us they were being unwise friends?
- In Sunday's sermon, David used the term "wise" and "unwise" friends instead of "good" and "bad" friends. Why is that an important distinction from a Christian perspective?

Start Sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- The truest forms of friendship are: 1) Christ, who died for us and invited us into His heavenly family, and 2) those who would go to extreme lengths to lead us to Jesus and away from sin.
 - In what ways do you invest in your "friendship" with Jesus?
 - What are some of the things you've done for friends or had friends do for you to ensure you're walking in step with Jesus?
- In your circle of friends, how are you being a wise and godly friend to those around you? Or are you the unwise friend in your group? What are you doing well as a friend and where could you improve as wise-godly friend?

Start Praying. Pray this prayer in your own words over the person next to you!

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for building us with a need for community. Life is so much better together. Please bless our faith family with deep, meaningful friendships. May the bond of our friendship be a source of refuge in the difficulties of life and a place of celebration in the joys of life. Help us to be that wise friend to all who You place in our circle. In Jesus' name, amen.

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

- Thank your Gospel Community for being available every week as a group of "wise friends" who are committed to your spiritual well being.
- If you do not have someone who fits the biblical example of a "wise friend" or "godly friend," jump out of your comfort zone and literally ask someone to be that godly and wise friend to you.
- If you are someone who thrives with godly community, write some of those friends a card to thank them for being godly, wise friends.

"Sometimes we have to survive the struggle before we receive the blessing."

the whole story: Part 4
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Find out more by checking out the series “the whole story – part 4” at www.myrestore.church

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