

GAME ON

WK.1 - GROUP DISCUSSION

“Teamwork” - Shawn Johnson

START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer this question:

Who is your best friend? Tell us a few reasons why they are the best?

SHARE

Welcome to our new series, “Game On.” Originating in sports, the phrase “game on” really just means, “I’m ready;” Ready for the challenge, ready for the unknown, ready to put fear aside and take on whatever is to come. When we take an honest look at our lives and the daily challenges we face, how many of us can say, with confidence, that we are able to face it? Life is tough and it can often knock us down. We are not made to play the game of life alone.

In this week’s message, we will take a look at a lesser-known story from Scripture:

Read

Mark 2:1-2

Is this the first time you have heard this story?

What is your impression of these friends?

Hebrews 10: 24,25

Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

Are you the type of person that likes to do things alone or are you someone who likes to be a part of a team? Why?

Why is meeting together important?

It is really hard to trust other people sometimes. Most of the time, we trust ourselves, but we are not so sure that other people will not betray us. That lack of trust is even stronger if you have ever been betrayed or disappointed by other people. It is impossible to live life together and not have conflict or problems, but that doesn't mean we throw it out the door. We were created for community.

We are created to be in relationship. God said, **"It is not good for man to be alone"** (Genesis 2:18). He designed us to be in relationship with Him, and with each other.

GROW

Read

Proverbs 17:17; Proverbs 18:24 and Proverbs 27:6

Gills Exposition of the Entire Bible elaborates on Proverbs 17:17:

The Jewish writers understand this as showing the difference between a friend and a brother: a cordial friend loves at all times, prosperous and adverse; but a "brother loves when adversity is born", or is, so Aben Ezra; he loves when he is forced to it; when the distress of his brother, who is his flesh and bone, as Gersom observes, obliges him to it: but this may be understood of the same person who is the friend; he is a brother, and acts the part of one in a time of adversity, for which he is born and brought into the world; it being so ordered by divine Providence, that a man should have a friend born against the time he stands in need of him.

Matthew Henry's concise Commentary on Proverbs 18:24 states:

"Christ Jesus never will forsake those who trust in and love him. May we be such friends to others, for our Master's sake. Having loved his own, which were in the world, he loved them unto the end; and we are his friends if we do whatever he commands us, John 15:14."

Gills Exposition of the Entire Bible elaborates on Proverbs 27:6:

"Faithful are the wounds of a friend." That is, friendly reproofs; which, though they may be severe, at least thought so, and may grieve and wound, and cause pain and uneasiness for the present, yet, proceeding from a spirit of love, faithfulness, and integrity, and designed for the good of the person reproofed, ought to be kindly received; see Psalm 141:5; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful; flow from a deceitful heart, and not to be confided in, as the kisses of Joab and Judas. It may be rather rendered, "are to be deprecated"; prayed against, as real evils, hurtful and pernicious; and so the Targum renders it, "are evil".

What stands out to you after reading these verses and commentary?

Do you think you surround yourself with good and honest friendships?

The Bible describes a different type of friendship than we are used to in our culture. We don't often expect correction from our friends, but God tells us that those are the people who could be the best for us.

Shawn talked about several friends he has and the ways they have caused him to be a better person, spouse, friend, and follower of Christ.

Take a few moments to evaluate your current relationships. Do you have friends like this? Jot down some notes here.

1. Who has great faith in God?
2. Who has accepted you at your worst?
3. Who is a good listener when you need to talk?
4. Who prays for you?
5. Who helps you grow closer to God?

Proverbs 27:17 says, **“As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.”**

MOVE

Shawn said that it takes WORK to build a team around us. Some friendships are instant, while others take time to develop. As he mentioned, it is not enough to just sit on the couch and pray for quality relationships. We need to be intentional about finding them! Jesus went out and invited the Disciples to join him. He said, “Come follow me.” (Matthew 4:19 & Mark 1:17) Paul the apostle wrote letters to all of the churches he started to keep them on the right track and he visited them to encourage them.

What are some things that you can do to meet people who could develop into quality friendships/teammates?

How can you make new relationships at church?

PRAY

As a group, spend some time praying for each other and the struggles that we all face. If you are in a co-ed group, consider breaking up into men and women's groups to talk more freely.

TO GO

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!