



HIGHLANDS FELLOWSHIP

At the Movies • The Sandlot • Matthew 25:40; Luke 6:31; Proverbs 18:24 •

Main Point

Because Jesus took the initiative to be our Friend when we were in need, we can take the initiative to befriend others who are also in need.

Opening Doors

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

Did you have a nickname placed on you growing up? How did that make you feel?

When it comes to relationships, do you typically initiate friendship or wait until others initiate friendship with you? Why?

What would you say is a key to great friendships?

We've all experienced times when even though we tried really hard, we just didn't fit. Sometimes, those types of experiences impact our relationships going forward. Rather than initiating friendship, we guard our hearts and wait for others to initiate friendship with us. What we find in Scripture, though, is that we shouldn't sit around waiting on someone to do something good for us. Instead, we should do good for other people.

Digging In

Discuss the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ LUKE 6:31.

You've probably heard this verse taught as "The Golden Rule" since you were a young child. Back then, you likely applied it by trying to share toys and not biting and kicking others.

How does God want you to apply Luke 6:31 in your relationships now as an adult?

To what extent did Jesus put this into practice in His own life?

How does His example challenge and deepen your understanding of what it means for you to "do unto others"?

What do we communicate to the world when they see us taking the initiative to love other people?

ASK SOMEONE TO READ MATTHEW 25:40.

When talking about His second coming and the time when we're all held accountable for our actions while on earth, Jesus described what faithfulness to Him looks like.

What is your first reaction when you see someone in need? Do you honestly desire to help him or her, or do you think someone else will provide aid?

How do Jesus' words here change the way we view the lowly and needy person?

In this week's sermon, the example of Jesus reaching out to Zacchaeus was given as an example. Because of Zacchaeus' life choices, no one wanted to be his friend. No one, that is, until Jesus reached out and decided to visit Zacchaeus' house.

How does the story of Zacchaeus broaden your understanding of "the least of these"?

ASK SOMEONE TO READ PROVERBS 18:24.

How is it that someone surrounded by many companions could ever find him or herself alone in a difficult time?

What holds you back from showing up when a friend is in need?

When has someone "shown up" for you in a time of need? How did that kindness impact you?

Taking It Home

Identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to your life.

In this week's message, we looked at the movie *The Sandlot*, particularly how Benny reached out to help Smalls feel welcome and a part of the group. Who is someone in your life that you can be a “Benny” to, and how can you reach to that person this week?

Based on today's verses, how strong would you say your friendships are right now? Explain.

What are some steps you can take to strengthen those relationships?