

2 TIMOTHY

INVITE A FRIEND



TEACH IT TALK SESSION 6

This talk guide is just that: a guide. It's not intended to be a manuscript to read aloud. It's here to give you ideas, structure, and stories to blend with your personal study (Prep It) as you prepare your talk.

The content complements the other Teach It guides and allows you to give a talk on the same topic students are studying in other settings, such as small groups, without too much overlap.

1. Materials (Optional)

- Video clip: *Monty Python's Flying Circus*: Episode 45: "Finishing Sentences"
The DVD or VHS may be available at your local library. Or you can find it online at a video sharing Web site, such as YouTube, by searching *Monty Python Finishing Sentences*.
- A piece of charcoal

2. Optional Openings

VISUAL ILLUSTRATION

Show the clip of *Monty Python's Flying Circus*: "Finishing Sentences." Point out—

Although this sketch was purely ridiculous, this is one way of picturing a true connection with another person—understanding each other so well that you can finish each other's sentences.

QUOTATIONS

Share a few of these quotations to introduce the ideas of friendship and connection.

Friendship consists in forgetting what one gives, and remembering what one receives.
—Alexandre Dumas (1802-1870, French author of *The Count of Monte Cristo* and *The Three Musketeers*)

After the friendship of God, a friend's affection is the greatest treasure here below. In prosperity our friends know us; in adversity we know our friends.
—John Churton Collins (1848-1908, British literary critic)

Oh, the inexpressible comfort of feeling safe with a person; having neither to weigh thoughts nor measure words, but to pour them all out, just as they are, chaff and grain together, knowing that a faithful hand will take and sift them, keep what is worth keeping, and then, with the breath of kindness, blow the rest away.
—George Eliot (1819-1880, British novelist)

PERSONAL STORY

Tell a story of great fellowship. Here's an example:

There was this crazy guy named Dave I met on the first day of college my freshman year. I walked into my dorm, and there he was. He had right facial paralysis, which meant that he talked

and smiled at sort of an angle. He seldom took showers and only occasionally went to class. As it turns out, he was also one of the funniest people I'd ever met. He was definitely the best storyteller.

Dave and I would hang out talking through the night and then road trip to some other college to see friends from high school. We were inseparable. He was the kind of friend that people asked me about if he wasn't around. It was so uncommon to see us apart that people would regularly ask, "So, where's Dave?"

We'd hang out so often that we created sort of an unofficial shorthand. He'd say something like, "You up for..." and I'd say, "Yeah, but I've got the thing," and people would just look at us. We didn't have to finish our sentences because we each knew what the other was thinking. We lived in the same dorm room, had some of the same classes and many of the same friends, and hung out all the time. We became great friends.

Dave was actually the first guy I knew and hung out with who owned and actually read his Bible. In fact it was actually Dave reading his Bible that got me thinking about the deeper things of life. The very first Bible I ever read was his. He pushed me toward the deeper stuff, even while he was skipping classes and making all sorts of social or relational mistakes. He wasn't perfect, but he was my friend. Because of that friendship I wanted to know more about the faith he talked about. Because of our friendship I started looking into what having a faith that I owned would look like. Eventually I made a decision to give my life up and follow Jesus. I became a Christ-follower. Because of my friendship with Dave, my eternity is now pointed in a totally different direction. I thank God for my friendship with Dave.

3. Digging In

Continue with—

Check out what Paul had to say about one of his friends in 2 Timothy 1:16-17 —

May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains. On the contrary, when he was in Rome, he searched hard for me until he found me.

It'd be great if all friendships were late-night talks, road trips, and laughing together. The reality is that I need friends who aren't afraid of the occasional spark—friends who will call me out when I'm making bad decisions. I need a friend who will challenge me when I'm being stubborn or prideful. I need a friend's perspective to help me when I've screwed up and fallen on my spiritual back. I need to be sharpened.

Proverbs 27:17 says, "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." I think we all need to be sharpened that way.

Hold up a piece of charcoal and share—

Picture a grill full of charcoal. Right in the middle of this grill, the flames have grown so hot that the charcoal is actually red. Over on the side you'll see a few black charcoal pieces. They're not only black, they're actually cold—or maybe room temperature. If you were to pick one up and place it in the middle of the red-hot coals, you'd soon see that cold charcoal burns just as hot

OPTIONAL MIX-INS

You may want to point out a few expository points about 2 Timothy:

-It's easy to forget that Paul had a lot of friends; we hear about his prison stay and his traveling, and we forget he had a gang to hang out with.

-In one small chunk of Scripture in 2 Timothy, Paul mentioned nearly 15 people who were close to him.

-He mentions dozens more in "closing" chapters such as Romans 16 and Colossians 4.

as the others. That's what it's like to be surrounded by people who are red-hot. When we have friends in our life who consistently live out their faith, take risks, and love God and others with their entire heart, soul, mind and strength, we can count on one thing for sure—it spreads like fire.

In the same way, if you were to take one of those red-hot coals out of the middle of the fire and place it on the side (using tongs, of course), it'd stay hot—for a while. Soon you'd see it slowly turn back to black. We're much like the charcoal. If you take someone out of great fellowship with other Christians, it's likely that they'll start to cool down.

We need one another. We need friends, and not just friends who are fun to hang out with. We need passionate followers of Jesus who aren't afraid of standing out or standing up in the face of adversity. We need people who won't back down and who'll help us when we fall. We desperately need one another.

4. Taking It Inward

Continue with—

Do a quick mental inventory of your friends. Who in your life is like an Onesiphorus [You may want to simplify his name to O-Man.], someone who refreshes you, who pours life into you rather than sucks life out of you. Onesiphorus wasn't ashamed of Paul's predicament. He accepted Paul for who he was. Paul wasn't in a position to return any favors. A friendship with him wasn't going to propel anyone up the social ladder. But Onesiphorus *often* refreshed Paul. He was a consistent friend during one of Paul's neediest times in life. Who do you have in your life like that?

Think of it another way: Are you an Onesiphorus to the people around you? Do you pour life into your friends or are you a drain on them? Do you accept the predicaments of your friends? Do you give without expecting a return favor?

5. Wrapping It Up

Finish with—

Decide today that you're going to surround yourself with friends who spiritually refresh you and encourage you in your walk with God. And decide today that you're going to be someone who refreshes the people around you, rather than being a drain on them.