



## Discussion Guide

**Ice Breaker:** Who was your earliest “best friend?” What made them special to you?

1. Name some friendships which have been instrumental in your life over the years at highlighting what good friendship is all about. How did they get started? What do you think keeps them going? How have they changed and grown over time?
2. Read Proverbs 13:20. What do you notice in this verse that challenges you as you move into your future or reminds you of something from your past?
3. Pastor Tony identified different types of friendships we have in our lives. Which of these do you think you have more of in this season of life? Which do you have less of? How much of that should you own versus what you believe others are responsible for?
4. Tough question - do you really want healthy, interactive friendships right now? Before you answer, read Proverbs 27:17 as you consider what that means on both ends of such a relationship. What are you willing to do to improve and grow your current relationship as well as those in your future?

## Personal Guide

Day 1: Read Proverbs 31

Day 2: Read Acts 2:42-47

Day 3: Read Acts 4:23-31

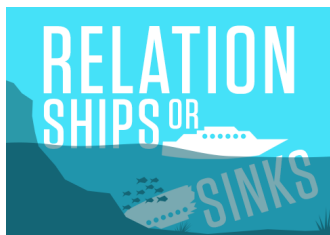
Day 4: Read Acts 4:32-37

Day 5: Read Acts 9:26-31

# RELATIONSHIPS OR SINKS

**LIFE PRESERVERS**  
FEBRUARY 17TH, 2019

Message Notes and Small Group  
Discussion // Personal Guides



## “Life Preservers” [Tony Myles, Student Ministries Pastor]

### MESSAGE NOTES

*Proverbs 13:20*

**The friends we make and keep greatly impact the quality and capacity of wisdom we live by.**

A friend can become a bigger influence on you than: your \_\_\_\_\_, your own \_\_\_\_\_ or even \_\_\_\_\_.

**Life Preservers** (why would you need such a thing?)

Because in life, not every person is “\_\_\_\_\_”  
\_\_\_\_\_.

**Some people we encounter are...**

**1. \_\_\_\_\_ (“VIPs : Very Important People): They watch our lives looking to maximize our experience within and beyond their sight.**

They focus on your \_\_\_\_\_ over your happiness. (*Proverbs 27:9, 27:5-6, 27:19*)

Spiritually speaking...

Checkmark: Who do you know who in his/her own life chooses “training” over “trying?” (*Proverbs 27:17*)

**2. \_\_\_\_\_ (“VPPs : Very \_\_\_\_\_ People): They like splashing around our lives recreationally, but not necessarily toward something.**

They focus on your \_\_\_\_\_ over your health. (*Proverbs 18:17, 18:13, 20*)

Spiritually speaking...

Checkmark: Who gives you advice to merely spare you any pain versus help you truly grow? (*Proverbs 18:24*)

**3. \_\_\_\_\_ (“VNP : Very \_\_\_\_\_ People): They regularly pass by our lives without any significant interest in ours.**

They focus on \_\_\_\_\_ interests over your interests. (*Proverbs 25:17, 25:19*)

Spiritually speaking...

Checkmark: Who do you consistently see but don’t consistently \_\_\_\_\_? (Do your social media profile friends sound like *Proverbs 23:29-35*?)

**4. \_\_\_\_\_ (aka, “VHPs” : Very \_\_\_\_\_ People): They’ve pushed us into and under dangerous waters.**

They focus on “\_\_\_\_\_” your interests with little actual interest. (*Proverbs 12:18, 12:23, 12:20*)

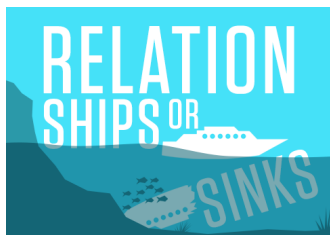
Spiritually speaking...

Checkmark: Who thinks they’re always \_\_\_\_\_ about how you’re always wrong? (*Proverbs 12:15, 12:7*)

*In a world full of opinions, God’s wisdom and truth matter.*

- God wants you to have real friends - not just people who “\_\_\_\_\_” you.
- Remember that a life preserver has an inner circle and outer circle.
  - ♦ Circle of \_\_\_\_\_ (inner circle) versus Circle of \_\_\_\_\_ (outward circle/focus).
  - ♦ Some people who are in the “inner circle” of your life need to be moved to the “outer circle.” (and vice-versa)
- Choose to \_\_\_\_\_ - change up where things happen, who they happen with, why they happen, and more.

Don’t miss this:



**“Life Preservers”**  
[Tony Myles, Student Ministries Pastor]

**MESSAGE NOTES**

*Proverbs 13:20*

**The friends we make and keep greatly impact the quality and capacity of wisdom we live by.**

A friend can become a bigger influence on you than: your family, your own convictions or even God.

**Life Preservers** (why would you need such a thing?)

Because in life, not every person is “best friend” material.

**Some people we encounter are...**

**1. Lifeguards (“VIPs : Very Important People): They watch our lives looking to maximize our experience within and beyond their sight.**

They focus on your health over your happiness. (*Proverbs 27:9, 27:5-6, 27:19*)

Spiritually speaking...

Checkmark: Who do you know who in his/her own life chooses “training” over “trying?” (*Proverbs 27:17*)

**2. Treaders (“VPPs : Very Positive People): They like splashing around our lives recreationally but not necessarily toward something.**

They focus on your happiness over your health. (*Proverbs 18:17, 18:13, 20*)

Spiritually speaking...

Checkmark: Who gives you advice to merely spare you any pain versus help you truly grow? (*Proverbs 18:24*)

**3. Floaters (“VNPs : Very Neutral People): They regularly pass by our lives without any significant interest in ours.**

They focus on their interests over your interests. (*Proverbs 25:17, 25:19*)

Spiritually speaking...

Checkmark: Who do you consistently see but don’t consistently know? (Do your social media profile friends sound like *Proverbs 23:29-35*?)

**4. Dunkers (aka, “VHPs” : Very Hurtful People): They’ve pushed us into and under dangerous waters.**

They focus on “correcting” your interests with little actual interest. (*Proverbs 12:18, 12:23, 12:20*)

Spiritually speaking...

Checkmark: Who thinks they’re always right about how you’re always wrong? (*Proverbs 12:15, 12:7*)

*In a world full of opinions, God’s wisdom and truth matter.*

- God wants you to have real friends - not just people who “accept” you.
- Remember that a life preserver has an inner circle and outer circle.
  - ♦ Circle of influence (inner circle) versus Circle of impact (outward circle/focus).
  - ♦ Some people who are in the “inner circle” of your life need to be moved to the “outer circle.” (and vice-versa)
- Choose to choose - change up where things happen, who they happen with, why they happen, and more.

Don’t miss this: