

TRANSFORMATION CHURCH

Gospel Friends

CONVERSATION GUIDE: WEEK TWO

Gospel Friends

God not only forgives our sins, He gives us a family with different colored skins.

SERMON RECAP:

This week, Pastor Derwin continued our Gospel Friends series with a message on how gospel friends love like family. In fact, we are family. When we are adopted into the family of God, we receive a family of gospel friends. Gospel friends are people who make you a better version of yourself as you follow Jesus. These brothers and sisters encompass various backgrounds, cultures, and ethnicities, because the family of God is a multiethnic family. God not only forgives our sins, but He gives us brothers and sisters with different colored skins. That's powerful.

As you discuss with your group, take time to appreciate the different backgrounds, cultures, and ethnicities represented. One way that we can love our gospel friends like family is by listening to their stories and seeking to understand their perspectives.

As we grow in relationship with our gospel friends, how can we love each other like family? Gospel friendships that last honor each other, advocate on behalf of each other, and pray together and for each other. During your small-group conversation, discuss these qualities and share how you can intentionally love one another like family.





Howard

GOSPEL FRIEND STORY:

Howard and his wife, Margaret, moved to the Carolinas from New York. Moving to a new place can be difficult. Trying to navigate a new normal in an unfamiliar environment with no familiar faces around can make you feel lonely. All their family stayed in New York, and they didn't know what life would be like with no family nearby. When they found TC, they immediately felt welcomed. There was something about the ushers on the Next Steps Weekend Team in particular that made Howard see the importance of welcoming people into the church and helping them feel comfortable. Joining that team just seemed to him like the right thing to do. The ushers had made him feel so welcome, so he wanted to turn right around and help others feel welcome as well.

Soon, Howard and Margaret had developed a great many relationships! "They come over to our house, we go over to their house. And that was one of our biggest concerns when we moved down here, because we moved down here not knowing many folks at all. We were wondering, 'How are we going to build relationships?' And we realized that the best way to build relationships is through serving and by serving with folks and getting to talk to them. And for us, these people are our family." God can take people from different cities, cultures, backgrounds, and skin tones and make them into a family. Howard and Margaret are living proof of this.

Discussion Questions:

UPWARD:

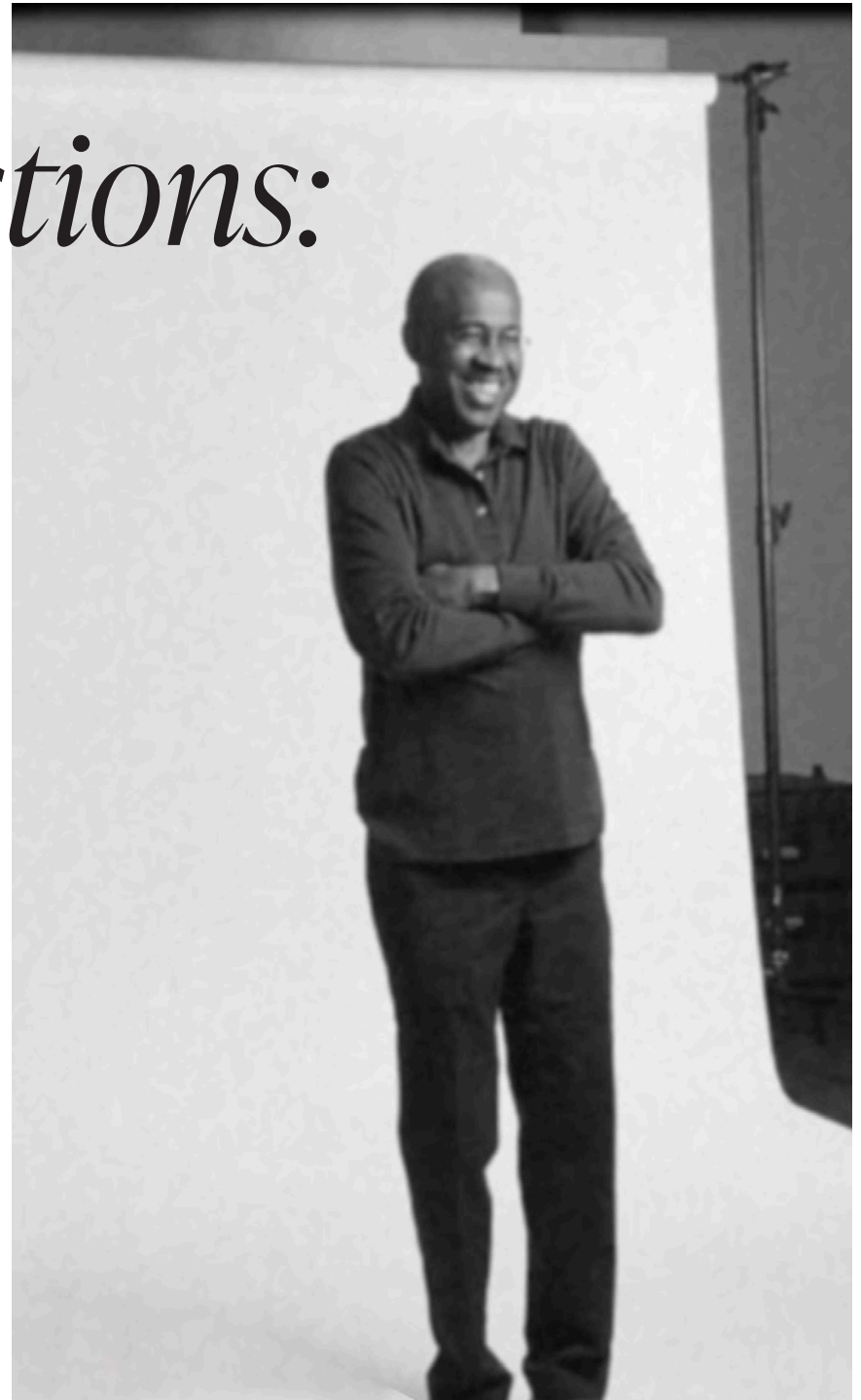
- Because God is a relational God, He desires relationship and community for His children. Think about the closest friendships in your life. What have you learned about God through these friendships?
- Read Romans 12:10-11. Why do you think “loving one another” and “honoring one another” are listed in conjunction with “serving the Lord”? In other words, how do loving and honoring others bring pleasure to God?

INWARD:

- Before we can love others compassionately, we must grow in our ability to love ourselves correctly. How can you honor yourself and advocate for yourself?
- Do you struggle with loving yourself correctly? Take time to pray for each other as you share your experiences.

OUTWARD:

- How can you honor and advocate for your gospel friends?
- Read Matthew 6:9-13. Why do you think God asks us to pray for each other?
- Share your prayer requests as a group, and practice praying with and for each other. If you don't feel comfortable sharing your request with the group, remember that God hears your thoughts and knows what's in your heart.



Soul Tattoo:

Fight for each other, not with each other.

Action Step:

Connect to the family of God by serving on our Connections team.

