



# *beautiful* COMMUNITY

***A WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL CREATED  
BY A TEAM OF PEOPLE AT  
ADVENTURE OF FAITH***

## **Introduction Activity (for groups)**

Pick two or more people and have them stand facing each other. Ask them to say anything. The two will go back and forth each saying one word. One person might say "computer", the other might say "bone", then, "bowl", then "speaker"... They are just going back and forth saying words. The first person to go "ah..." or have some sort of a break in what they are trying to say, they will get a piece of clear scotch tape put over their face. Then they continue playing the game. Once one person has 3 pieces of tape on their face they are out.



## REAL TALK:

THIS IS A TIME TO BE  
AUTHENTIC, WITH  
YOURSELF AND OTHERS.  
SHARE HOW YOU'RE  
DOING WITH GOD  
PERSONALLY AND PRAY  
FOR ONE ANOTHER.



## SERMON INTRO:

Paul and Timothy had a unique relationship. Paul called Timothy his son, his brother, his co-worker in the Gospel. Their relationship was deep and strong and centered around Jesus. Where they could have simply been friends or colleagues, Christ brought them closer and changed their relationship. Because of Jesus, their casual friendship became as close as family. As Paul was writing the last letters of his life, he wrote to Timothy, passing the torch of Gospel work to his covenant partner, and encouraging his brother to carry on God's work.

The relationship between Paul and Timothy is extraordinary in a lot of ways and it shouldn't be that surprising to us Jesus-people. We've talked already about the Kingdom of Heaven calling us to greater and deeper community with each other and Paul and Timothy's relationship is an example of that. The bedrock of their relationship was Jesus and the Gospel. Living in Biblical community with each other means that the core of our community, the foundation of our relationships, should be the Gospel. As Christians, we agree that Christ is the center of our communion with one another. Doing so means that we not only have coworkers as we spread the Gospel, but that we have friends as close as family. Friends who will encourage us when we feel like giving up, who will call out our sins and celebrate when we overcome them, and who will tell us we're doing the right thing when living out the Gospel makes us look absurd.

Maybe our friends are our people because of common interests, common locations, or common phases of life. Regardless of what initially draws us to certain people, we need to take the important step with our Christian brothers and sisters to intentionally center our relationships around Jesus. These Spirit-filled, Gospel-driven relationships make our church more like the early church; they give us greater purpose, greater intimacy, greater covenant love that makes our Biblical community attractive and unique in our world. Let's set aside our fear and become intentional partners with each other to bear one another's burdens and spur each other on in our Gospel journeys.

## GOD ENCOUNTERS:

JOURNAL, THINK ABOUT, OR  
DISCUSS WITH YOUR  
GROUP HOW YOU HAVE  
ENCOUNTERED GOD IN YOUR  
LIFE THIS WEEK.

## WORSHIP SONG:

CLICK IN THIS AREA FOR A  
HYPERLINK TO YOUTUBE OR  
SEARCH FOR:

Village Lights &  
Sarah Kroger -  
Unbroken Family

VILLAGE LIGHTS  
UNBROKEN FAMILY

LYRIC VIDEO



## READ:

1 Timothy 6:11-21

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## Discuss:

- What stands out to you from the scripture we read?
- What are we doing while we "do life" with one another?
- Why does Adventure of Faith exist?
- How do we move, then, from the more superficial types of relationships we have to these deeper, Jesus-centered relationships?

## Devotional:

1. Decide to take the risk for the sake of Jesus.
2. Prayerfully consider what your relationship is about.
3. The third step is to have the DTR (Define the Relationship) conversation.

## Memory verse: 1 Timothy 6:12

Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

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## PRAYER:

Heavenly Father,

As a believer, I know that we are called to share the love and redemptive power of our lord, Jesus Christ. We are not to judge others but should extend grace just as you have extended grace to us, despite our sinful nature. Yet, what a blessing it is to be part of a community of believers! When the burdens and temptations of this world threaten to overwhelm me, I can turn to a brother or sister-in-Christ and they will come along side me to petition for your wisdom or protection. This affords me comfort and encourages me to stand strong with confidence that you are working in my situation. You have given us the capacity for deep, meaningful relationships with those that share an incredible love for you.

I want to share the love and faith that have transformed my life but I pray that you will insulate me from the influence of those that are living only for this world.

In Jesus Name,

Amen