Group Discussion Guide
Best (Blank) Ever 2: Selection of Proverbs
Big Idea: *Jesus sets the bar high for friendship*

Leader Note: You'll notice several of these leader notes throughout the guide. These don't have to be read out loud. But you can if they're helpful. They are simply here to help you navigate discussion with a little extra knowledge or helpful tips. If I can help you with anything before group, please feel free to get a hold of me! You can easily contact me at daniel@fcc-online.org

ICEBREAKER: (5 MIN)

- **Question:** If you could be close friends with any celebrity, athlete or artist who would you choose and why?

CONNECT: (5 MIN)

- **Say this:** *This week we're looking at David's life and the Proverbs that show us that there are friends that we all need. There is wisdom in wanting the best friendships possible. Let's discover together what Godly friendships can look like in our lives.*
- **Connect Question:** What are some of the unique challenges about maintaining meaningful friendships in adulthood?

STARTERS: (10-15 MIN)

- **Read: Proverbs 12:26**
- **Question:** Why is it so important to choose your friends wisely?
- **Read: Proverbs 27:17**

- **Question:** When you think about the closest friends you've had in life, how have those friends impacted you? (Your personality, humor, interests, things you accomplished/decided not to do. Etc.)
- **Read: Proverbs 18:24**
- **Question:** Have you ever had friendships that were as meaningful (or more so) than family? How is this possible?
- **Read: Proverbs 27:6**
- **Question:** Have you ever experienced a friendship with so much trust that you could share "hard truths" with each other? What was that like?
  - o **(Leader Note:** You may need to be vulnerable and share to help your group feel confident responding to this heavy question.)

DISCOVER: (30 MIN)
- **Say this:** *On Sunday, we talked about Solomon's father David and three close friends from his life. We talked about friends that make us better, stronger, and friends who tell us the truth. We're going to spend some time now talking about why those friends are so important.*
- **Question:** Samuel was a friend who made David better. Have you ever had a friend who saw more in you than you could see in yourself? How did that impact you?
- **Question:** Jonathan was a friend who made David stronger. Have you ever had to walk through pain and suffering without the presence of true friends? If so what was that like? If not, how would that have changed some of the difficult things you've been through in life?
- **Question:** Nathan was a friend who told David the truth. Sometimes we have a hard time telling our friends the truth. Why is it so difficult to share truthful words with one another?
- **Question:** Can you think of ways you *shouldn't* share the truth with your friends?
- **Read: John 15:13**
- **Question:** Does this standard of friendship intimidate you? What would this actually look like lived out in real life?
  - o **(Leader Note:** Obviously, there is the extreme example of literally giving up one's life. But what would truly sacrificial love look like in your friendships?)
- **Question:** A big shift we made on Sunday was the idea that it's not just important to find good friends, but we need to BE the friend we desire to have. If we took this to heart, how would it change our friendships? Our families? Our communities? Etc.

RESPOND/PRAYER: (15 MIN)
- **Prompt:** Who did you B.L.E.S.S. this week? **(refer to the cheat sheet at the bottom of the discussion guide)**.

- **Prompt:** Pray that God would open our eyes to see the people who He wants us to B.L.E.S.S. where we live work and play.
- **Prompt:** Pray that God would help us become the kind of friends we desire to have.
- **Prompt:** Spend time sharing prayer requests.

WRAP UP: (OPTIONAL)
- Maybe the idea of becoming the type of friend you desire seems daunting. It probably should. But in Jesus we have a friend who provides an example of friendship that we can truly model ourselves after. Jesus has given us everything we need to be the type of friends the people around us need because of His Spirit living in us. It's time to truly be friends to the people where we live work and play.

FIRST Groups B.L.E.S.S. Updates

At FIRST, *our groups exist to help us grow in our relationship with God and each other.* But for what? Why does God want us to grow? We are convicted that God wants to use the strength and community of our groups, to bless the people where we live work and play. Especially the people we know who do not have a relationship with God. This is how we'll fulfill the Jesus Mission to "go and make disciples" (Matt 28-18-20).

As groups, **we want to intentionally "B.L.E.S.S." people each week**.[1] *What do we mean by that?*

B – Begin with prayer: We will pray for the people where we live work and play.

L – Listen: We will intentionally listen to the people in our lives where we live work and play.

E – Eat: We will share meals with the people where we live work and play.

S – Serve: We will respond to the needs we discover among the people where we live, work, and play.

S – Story: We will share the story of Jesus and what He is doing in our lives with the people where we live work and play.

So in your group:
- *Start every prayer time by asking,* **"who did you B.L.E.S.S. this week?"**
- Write down what each of your group members say, and follow up week by week.
- **ENCOURAGE:** This is not meant to shame, but to empower us to take intentional steps to be a blessing. If all else fails, you can encourage timid or nervous group members to start by intentionally praying for God to open doors for them to be a blessing (Colossians 4:2-3)
- Continue to share personal prayer requests and praises.

This subtle shift in times of prayer can lead to a massive impact over time. Thanks for helping your group grow and be a blessing!

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[1] This B.L.E.S.S. acronym was originally developed as a church resource by Dave Ferguson.
https://smile.amazon.com/Discover-Your-Mission-Dave-Ferguson/dp/0983086486/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1539805578&sr=8-1&keywords=discover+your+mission+now