

These notes are designed to be used by small groups on Zoom, by members of a family or by a couple of friends on the telephone. They are based on our Sunday sermons and are designed to help us all think through the issues raised about “God in my Everything”. You will get the most out of them if you have heard the sermon first.

Sermon Date

Sunday 25th April, Jane Hulme

Bible Passage

Luke 10:25-37

Theme & Introduction

This study is the 2nd in the series on “Friendship” as we think about our “rhythms of life.” In this study we will be looking at the cost of friendship.

Questions

1. You will find it helpful to begin this study by reading Luke 10:25-37
2. A British publication once offered a prize for the best definition of a friend. Among the thousands of answers received was the winning definition: “*A friend is the one who comes in when the whole world has gone out.*”
 - How would you define what a friend is?
 - How do your definitions match with the character of Jesus?
 - Do you find it easier to relate to Jesus as Lord, as Saviour or as friend?
3. Jane suggested that one of the costs of friendship is the **Loss of personal convenience**. If we are going to deepen our friendships, we need to be available to our friends.
 - Share any experiences you have had of needing to change your schedule so that you could be available to help a friend.
 - In what ways can you identify with the Priest and the Levite in Jesus’ story?
 - What sacrifices did the Samaritan make so that he was available to the injured man?
 - How can we increasingly develop hearts full of compassion?
4. Discuss Jane’s statement that “*Newcomers to the church are vulnerable and that we need to meet their needs.*” Imagine that you have walked through the church door for the very first time in your life. You have never attended a service before.
 - What do you need as you walk through the front door? / enter the building? / during the service? / and after the service?
 - How open is your Connect group to welcoming in potential friends?
5. Another cost of friendship is **Time**. What stops us from putting time into our friendships?
6. Jane suggested that another cost of friendship are our **carefully constructed images**. Many of us find it hard to share beyond “I’m fine.”
 - How can we enable more honest communication with each other?
 - How might having close friendships enable us to become more Christlike?

