

SIMPLIFY 3

(Prior to this study, it would be helpful to have read chapters 5,6 and 7)

Conversation starter: What characteristics do you most value in a friend?

1. Would you describe your relational world as simple and straightforward, or complex and chaotic? Are you satisfied with your situation? Why, or why not?
2. In what ways can you relate to the idea of being led down a harmful path by people you thought were your friends? Have you ever been the friend who led another astray? Discuss your thoughts with the group.
3. As you survey your current relational world, what "pruning" do you believe needs to occur? What has kept you from working through that pruning process before now?
4. What has your first-hand experience looked like as it relates to "biblical community" – the practice of knowing others and being known, serving others and being served, loving others and being loved, and so forth? What changes to your priorities, your schedule or your attitude would help you lean into the wisdom and camaraderie of the other Christian followers you know?
5. Read Matthew 18 v21-35. What thoughts come to mind as you read this? Is there an example of an offense that you have been hanging on to that you should release into God's capable hands?
6. How willing are you to "take off the mask" in your interactions with those closest to you? Does vulnerability feel refreshing or terrifying? What fears or insecurities keep you from disclosing more of your real world to the people that love you the most?

