

Fellowship Circle Resources - Topics: Friendship and Covenant

FIRST DRAFT

We can retool this session to make it better after Don does the meetings on making a covenant. In the meantime, here are some initial suggestions for review and revision. It needs focus questions.

Session Title: Friendship and Covenant

Opening reading or Music:

"Give Yourself to Love", Kate Wolf. (You should really have the music for the opening because it is so beautiful. Scatter boxes of tissues around liberally.)

Kind friends all gathered round,
There's something I would say,
What brings us together here has blessed us all today.
Love has made a circle and drawn us all inside.
Where strangers are as family,
And loneliness can't hide.
But you must give yourself to love
If love is what you're after,
Open up your hearts to the tears and laughter,
And give yourself to love,
Give yourself to love.
Love is born of fire,
It's planted like a seed.
Love won't give you everything,
But it will give you what you need.
Love comes when you are ready,

Love comes when you're afraid.
It will be your greatest teacher,
The best friend you have made.
But you must give yourself to love
If love is what you're after,
Open up your hearts to the tears and laughter,
And give yourself to love,
Give yourself to love.

Focus reading

The first African American to play Major League Baseball was Jackie Robinson. He faced insults and abuse in every stadium while trying to break through baseball's color barrier. One day in his home stadium in Brooklyn, he committed an error, and immediately the fans turned on him. While they jeered, he just stood there at second base, humiliated.

Suddenly, short-stop Pee Wee Reese ran over, stood next to him, put his arm around him, and together they faced the crowd. Within seconds the fans grew quiet. Years later, when Robinson was elected to Baseball's Hall of Fame, he said, "It was Reese's arm around my shoulder that day that saved my career and brought me to this moment!"

We speak a lot of being supportive, without ever going into the details of how that hard work is done. Strengthening others should be natural for us as a community. How do we get over the initial fears and obstacles to do that? How can we minister to one another?

Focus questions

(Open for suggestions here, y'all.)

Closing reading:

"And Jonathan, Saul's son, arose, and went to David in the woods and strengthened his hand in God" (1 Sam 23:16). In prosperity, our friends know us, but in adversity we know our friends. They're the ones who come to us when we're "in the woods".

Do you want a friend like Jonathan?

Can you be a friend like that?