

The Relationships We Need Part 1 - Discussion Group 1

1. Very briefly state your name and one thing you like to do for fun - 15 sec each person
2. Read Slide 2 together
3. See Questions on Slide 3
4. Type group summary points on the Slide with your group number to share with large group

The Relationships We Need Part 1

The Four Loves – C.S. Lewis

Highlight key components of agape love

“Without Eros none of us would have been begotten and without Affection (storge) none of us would have been reared; but we can live and breed without Friendship... Friendship (agape) is... the least natural of loves; the least instinctive, organic, biological...and [least] necessary.”

“Long before history began we men have got together apart from the women and done things... We not only had to do the things, we had to talk about them. We had to plan the hunt and the battle. When they were over we had to hold a post mortem and draw conclusions for future use... We enjoyed one another’s society greatly: we braves, we hunters, all bound together by shared skill, shared dangers and hardships...”

The Relationships We Need Part 1

The Four Loves – C.S. Lewis

“This companionship is, however, only the matrix of Friendship...many people when they speak of ‘friends’ mean only their companions.” You can have many “companions” but have no “friends.”

Companions = people I spend time with, do things with, live life with, but don't have agape!
Friends = people with whom I have agape, based upon a shared passion or truth, which is our shared center.

“Friendship [agape] arises out of mere Companionship when two or more of the companions discover that they have in common some insight or interest... which the others do not share and which, till that moment, each believed to be his own unique treasure (or burden). The typical expression of opening Friendship would be something like, ‘What? You too? I thought I was the only one.’

“It may be a common religion, common studies, a common profession, even a common recreation. All who share it will be our companions; but one or two or three who share something more will be our Friends... Do you see the same truth? Do you care about the same truth?”

Discussion questions for breakout groups:

1. What is the difference between a companion and a friend, according to C. S. Lewis? Is that distinction helpful, why or why not?
2. According to Lewis's definition, do I have friends or only companions?
3. Lewis claims that friendships are discovered around a shared treasure. Do you have a person in your life where the relationship is centered around a shared treasure? What impact does that shared treasure have on the quality or depth of the relationship?

Group 1 Summary Points

1. Many companions/few friends at church
 - a. As young adults we have friends that we don't see as often or keep in touch but companions at church that we see weekly
 - b. Best friends / "normal" friends vs. friends/companions

2. Acquaintances - with time they become friends/inner circle
 - a. Friends open up your heart / can't do it with companions
 - i. Vulnerability is key distinction
 - ii. Vulnerability is difficult - as young adults, we have been hurt in relationships; as we age we become more cautious to be vulnerable (or wise)

Group 2 Summary Points

- + (1)The distinction is helpful because there are people who may be considered acquaintances that we don't share the same depth with.
- + (1)Time is a limiting factor to how many people can be companions vs. friends
- + (2)Shared treasure/belief/values play a large role in who are friends. Adds sweetness to the relationship which translates to long-term depth.
- + (2)"Carpe diem" companions are more seasonal...often because a shared "treasure" is missing; mostly situational companions.
- + (3)Some seasonal companions can be rekindled...and, depending, can become Friends at a later life stage.
- + (3) Don't let ego get in the way of companions with the potential to be Friends!

Group 3 Summary Points

1. What is the difference between a companion and a friend, according to C. S. Lewis? Is that distinction helpful, why or why not?

Friend - people we not only spend time with, but have something else in common. Friends share agape love. In Christian friendship, it is grounded in agape love, which is linked to God.

2. According to Lewis's definition, do I have friends or only companions?

companions...people around you at a given moment...and then they kinda change with context

Companion - when you spend more time with them...they can turn into a friend as well. Discovering over time, that you see stuff the same way.

easier in college...to find friends...

there are people who you spend a lot of time with, but it doesn't always develop into a deep friendship

similar values - are what distinguishes companions from friends

3. Lewis claims that friendships are discovered around a shared treasure. Do you have a person in your life where the relationship is centered around a shared treasure? What impact does that shared treasure have on the quality

Group 4 Summary Points [tiffany]

1. What is the difference between a companion and a friend, according to C. S. Lewis? Is that distinction helpful, why or why not?
 - a. Grey area - i don't know!
 - b. Useful, able to know whether you truly have friends
2. According to Lewis's definition, do I have friends or only companions?
 - a. More companions than friends(+1)
 - b. Covid changed things
 - c. Companionship seems more intimate...
3. Lewis claims that friendships are discovered around a shared treasure. Do you have a person in your life where the relationship is centered around a shared treasure? What impact does that shared treasure have on the quality or depth of the relationship?

Group 5 Summary Points

Friend = common ground, emotional connection,

Companion =

Group 6 Summary Points

1. Friend has shared interest; companion is like an acquaintance, not necessarily a friend. It is helpful bc it makes you think about the depth of your social circles; helps you distinguish who is your friend and who is your companion; helps you appreciate your friend regardless of the frequency of meeting them
2. We tend to have more companions than friends
3. (we didn't get this far...)

Group 7 Summary Points [Peter Kang]

1. What is the difference between a companion and a friend, according to C. S. Lewis? Is that distinction helpful, why or why or not?
 - a. *People shared how companions are people who you might just see at work. In contrast, friends have shared experiences and interests.*
 - b. *Some shared that talking about difference between companionship versus friends was not really emphasized - good reminder!*
2. According to Lewis's definition, do I have friends or only companions?
 - a. *Some people shared how folks have lots of companions, but few friends. Friends have deeper connection, and being able to share all of yourself with the other person. All of the people within our group were Christians.*
 - b. *Some people even had more friends than companions because friends were too similar! So some wanted friends who have different perspectives on faith, recreational activities, etc.*
3. Lewis claims that friendships are discovered around a shared treasure. Do you have a person in your life where the relationship is centered around a shared treasure? What impact does that shared treasure have on the quality or depth of the relationship?
 - a. *Again, all of us were Christians. We had similar values, centered around the Gospel. Didn't get a chance to get into other non-holy "shared" treasures.*

Group 8 Summary Points

1. Friend is a deeper relationship than companion. The definition was helpful because companion and friend can mistakenly be used interchangeably.
2. We have both and may be dependent on need. Are we hanging out with them based on convenience or because of a deeper need?
3. Changes of shared treasure can affect the relationship.