

positive peer groups



HERE
2 stay.

discussion guide

Gather a group of people (consider all ages) to watch the video and then to explore, discuss and consider some action steps that may follow.

DEFINE

Why is a positive peer community important?

We are not meant to travel alone in this life...true friends are important! In our formative years we grow to be like our friends. Choosing to spend time with people who will influence us positively creates relationships that help us to grow. It also creates communities where matters of life can be explored and supported.

WATCH THE VIDEO

This is ONE example of ONE aspect of what 'positive peer community' could be. Spend time exploring more of this topic and consider some of the opportunities around this final question,

❖ "Who are you travelling with?"



DISCUSSION

Reflecting on the story.

- ❖ What did you hear in the story that showed it was a “God connection”?
- ❖ What long term impacts did this relationship have?
- ❖ Who is a friend (or group of peers) who speak positive words into your life?

DEEPER

Unpacking the building blocks listed on the video.

- Connect with others of the same age
- Create spaces to talk about life and faith together
- Develop understanding and respect through seeing into each other's lives
- Form strong relationships by doing stuff together
- Be committed to each other over time
- ❖ Which one of these building blocks holds the greatest significance in your life?
- ❖ What kinds of spaces are conducive to building positive peer connections?
- ❖ What are some of the key elements in the formation and maintenance of strong relationships?

DISCOVER

Digging into stories in the Bible that reinforce these building blocks.

KEY VERSE

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 *“Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labour: if either of*

them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.”

ACTIVITY

Plait three strands of wool together and talk about how it feels to see three strands together in comparison to one strand and how easily it is broken.

- ❖ What is the greatest challenge about being tightly woven together with others?

BIBLE

The story of David and Jonathan's friendship based on 1 Sam 18 - 2 Samuel 9

Read: 1 Samuel 18:1 - 4

- ❖ Describe the connection between David and Jonathan.

Read: 1 Samuel 19:1 - 7

- ❖ How does Jonathan save David's life?

Read: 1 Samuel 20:1 - 42.

- ❖ In this chapter, what building blocks do you see?

Read: 2 Samuel 9:1 - 7. (*Years after Jonathan died and David became King*)

- ❖ What lasting impact did their relationship have?

DECIDE

Make an intentional plan to implement something from this discussion:

1 Connect with others of the same age

- ❖ Who is a “peer” in your life with whom you could have a more intentional and positive impact?
- ❖ As parents and leaders how can we help someone else who needs a positive peer in their life?

2 Create spaces to talk about life and faith together / Form strong relationships by doing stuff together

- ❖ Where are the existing connection points in your faith community for positive peer growth?
- ❖ What new spaces can you create this week to help people deepen a connection?

3 Develop understanding and respect through seeing into each other’s lives / Be committed to each other over time

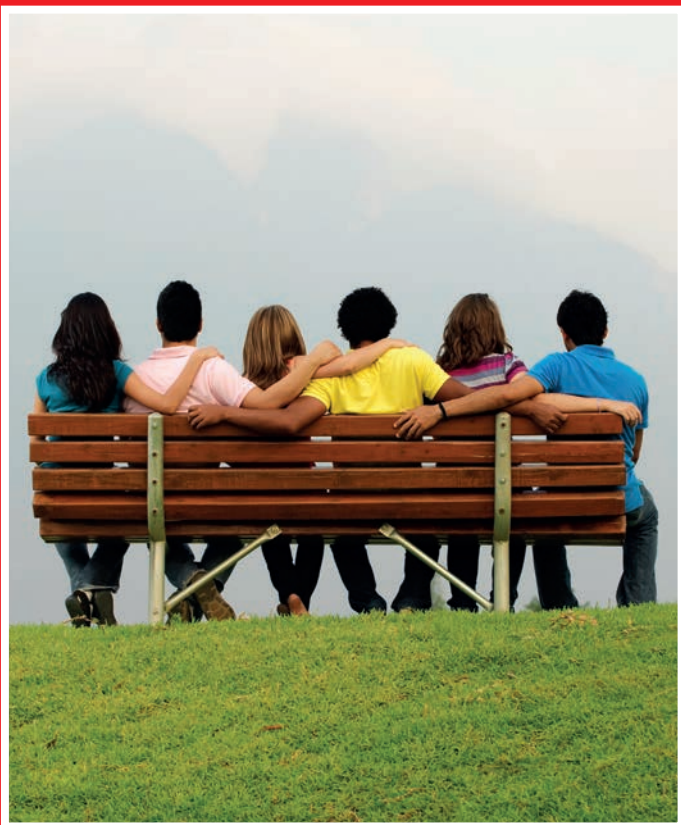
CHALLENGE:

Ask God to open your eyes and ears this week for an opportunity to listen to someone else’s story. Pray together and thank God for the positive peers in your life and ask Him to help you to be open to new friendships.

DARE

Why don’t you share your own “Positive Peer Community” story. Film it and send it to us. If it is 3-5 minutes long ... we would love to share it with others.

info@here2stay.org



For more information & resources:

[here2stay.org](https://www.here2stay.org)

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