**SGA English Sermon Leader’s Discussion Guide – Oct 19 2014 - Building Significant Spiritual Friendships**

**Pastor Matt Gaw**

All of this pertains to the theme of being a Sticky Church, a place where people come, connect and stay connected through authentic significant friendships. I want to inspire you with ideas of how to connect to each other better.

We wish to evaluate where we are in our friendships in order to grow deeper with each other.

1. Significant friendships open up
2. Significant friendships are there for the person
3. Significant friendships forgive and move forward together
4. Significant friendships have strong emotional connection
5. Significant friendships are holistic – the relationship can encompass many aspects of life.

*Q1. Do you find you have shallow or deep friendships? Describe your deep friendships.*

But it’s not enough to co-exist in simple deep friendships. This is why we exist together **–** *Proverbs 27:17 - As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.*  God put us here preach the gospel, make disciples of all nations, to be the body of Christ and build each other up.

**What is a significant spiritual friendship?**

1. **Significant spiritual friendships open up about struggles, sin, and how discussion affects them personally.**
   * *Q2. Are you able to be open with struggles, failure and sin with your small group or best spiritual friend?*
2. **Significant spiritual friendships are there for the person and challenge each other to grow** 
   * David and Jonathan – Jonathan gave and sacrificed himself as heir to the throne for David to be king.
   * *Q3. What do you hope for and pray for your spiritual friends? How far will you go to bless them?*
3. **Significant spiritual friendships keep working and are committed to each other**
   * John 13:34-35 - "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."
   * *Q4. Do people outside of your groups see how committed you are to each other? Do they see God’s love?*
4. **Significant spiritual friendships are one in heart. They have strong spiritual connection and common goal**

* Acts 4:32, All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had.
* Being spiritually connected to each other makes a bond that unmatchable physically and emotionally. The Lord is in it. Matt 18:20, Where 2 or 3 gather in my name, there I am with you.
* *Q5. How are you one in heart and mind with others? How did you become one in heart and mind? How can your current groups or friendships become more in one heart and mind?*

1. **Significant spiritual friendships are holistic – the friendship encompasses the whole of our lives.**
   * Acts 4:33- God’s grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them.
   * *Q6. Are our church friends just church friends that we talk about church things with? Or has your spiritual friendships grown to encompass all things as you share and trust all things unto each other?*

*Q7. Have you ever had a significant spiritual friendship? Describe these relationships.*

*Q8. Do you currently have shallow or significant spiritual friendships? Describe where you are and how you got here.*

*Q9. What do you think God intended church to be like? For small group to be like?*

*Q10. If you can change anything in your small group, what would it be?*

*Q11. If there was one thing from the list today that you can personally work on with one person or group, what and who would it be? How can our group pray and support you?*