

FRIENDOLOGY

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity. Proverbs 17:17 (NIV)

Message: "Adders" bring increase to your life. They help you realize who you are, what you have to offer, and what you need to change.

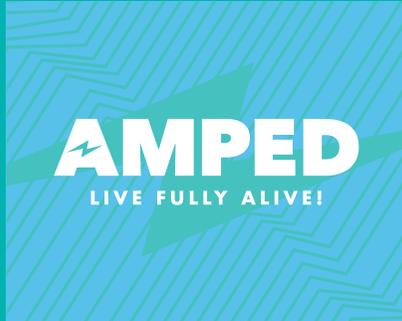
What gets added to your life? Friends who are "adders"...

• Increase _____

• Increase _____

• Increase _____

• Increase _____



INVITE A FRIEND TO VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Summer is coming and so is Vacation Bible School! Now through June 6, when you register your child, you'll get to invite a friend for free. Open to kids ages 4-5th grade. Register online.

- Chanhassen:**
Monday–Thursday, June 18–21, 6:00–8:15pm
- Minnetonka:**
Monday–Thursday, July 9–12, 6:00–8:15pm



MEET NEW FRIENDS IN A SMALL GROUP

Small groups are a great way to get to know others and grow in your faith. At Group Connect, we'll get you going in a group and have a lot of fun together. Register online.

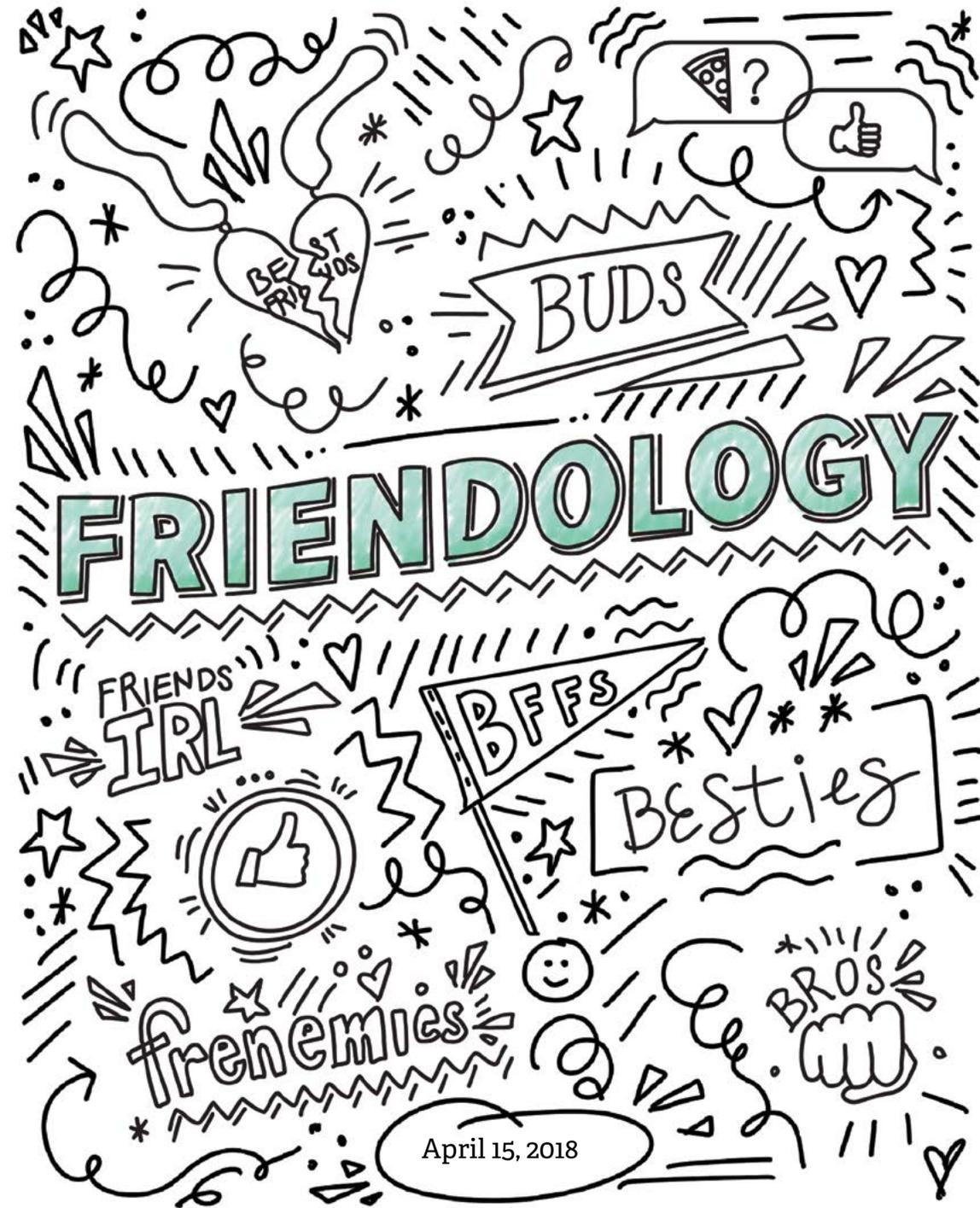
- Bloomington/Eden Prairie/Edina:**
Saturday, April 14, 9:00am–11:30am
- Chanhassen:**
Saturday, April 21, 9:00am–11:30am
- Minnetonka:** contact Mark Nelson,
mark.nelson@westwoodcc.org, 952.224.7382

WE'RE SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE TODAY.

Is this your first time here? Welcome! Stop by the Info Spot before or after the service. We'd love to meet you, answer any questions you have, and give you some handy information. For kids and students, we offer great programs specially tailored to their ages. The team at the Westwood Kids desk is happy to help you get them connected.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROPOSED CAMPUS

An exciting part of Westwood's 10-year vision includes the launching of a multisite campus in the Bloomington area in September. A proposal for funding this campus launch will be presented to the congregation at a brief Special Business Meeting on Sunday, May 6, at 12:15pm on the Chanhassen campus. To learn more about this opportunity prior to the meeting, please attend an open forum at the Chanhassen campus, April 29 at 9:30am or May 6 at 11:00am.



Friendology
#2 “The Adders”

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Pastor Joel’s message was that ‘Adders’ bring increase to your life. They help you realize who you are; what you have to offer, and what you need to change. Tell the group about one such friend in your life that added to your life in one of those three arenas.
2. Four characteristics of ways friends bring increase into your life were identified in the message. Review each increase and answer the questions for each.
 - a. Friends who are ‘Adders’ increase **transparency**. I Samuel 18:1 says “*Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself.*” Do you have a ‘one in spirit’ kind of friend? What practices of transparency created this kind of bond of affection in your relationships? What practices did David and Jonathan, or Jesus and the disciples have that deepened their bond of affection (See John 15:5)? Brainstorm together new practices that would nurture a spirit of oneness through transparency.
 - b. Friends who are ‘Adders’ increase **confidence**. I Thess. 5:11 says, ¹¹*Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.* Proverbs 27:17 states, “*As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.*” Do you intentionally encourage with the goal of building up a friend? Give examples or share perspective about how there is mutual ‘iron sharpening iron’ in a relationship you have or have had.

Proverbs 27:5-6 says, “Better is open rebuke than hidden love. ⁶Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.” It means friends who are adders speak simple straightforward truth in love. An ‘Adder’ tells you the truth even when it is hard to hear it. Do you receive hard feedback without getting defensive? What makes us defensive? Why is it important to have friends who can speak truth into our lives about what is good as well as what needs improvement?

- c. Friends who are ‘Adders’ increase **energy**. Proverbs 27:9 reads, “*Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of a friend springs from their heartfelt advice.*” How do friends make you feel alive? Have you had a chapter in your life in which you didn’t have friends who were ‘Adders?’ and how did that season impact your energy levels?
- d. Friends who are ‘Adders’ increase **good**.: Hebrews 10:24-25 reads, “*consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another and all the more as you see the Day approaching.* *What day is the ‘Day that is approaching?’* Why does that motivate doing good? How do friends motivated doing good or bringing goodness into the world?

Conclude by identifying a friend who is an ‘Adder’ and pray for them by name. If you do not have such a friend, pray that God will provide the important gift of an ‘Adder’ to your life.