



Queen Street Baptist Church, Norfolk, Virginia 23510

Sunday School Ministry – Youth and Young Adults (Ages 12-21)

Sunday School Staff: Angelina W. Hopkins, Ed.D.

TOPIC: “Friends and Peer Pressure”

Scriptures: Mark 2; John 15:12-14

Date: May 18-30 2020

INTRODUCTION: Jareld was a second year college student. While enrolled in grades 6-9, Jareld’s family lived in Albany, Georgia. Albany is a city in southwest Georgia (2019). The Albany demographics included a population of 72.5 % Blacks or African Americans. Jareld enjoyed playing multiple sports with his friends from school and in the community. It’s safe to say that Jareld was on the fast track to play high school and college football. Each day his family’s home buzzed with phone calls, text messaging, and Facebook clicks. Jareld’s mom often asked, “Jareld, how are you able to keep up with all of your friends?”

LESSON: As we study forward, there are numerous stories in the holy bible regarding friends. These lessons are provided to help keep our lives in proper perspective.

In Mark (chapter 2), there was a paralyzed man in the City of Capernaum. A large crowd had reportedly gathered to hear Jesus preach. There was a problem – the paralyzed man could not get into the building to see Jesus. The crowd was too large; and the man could not walk. The man had friends who came to the rescue. They hoisted him up on a mat and lowered the paralyzed man through an opening in the roof of the building. Because of the actions of these friends, something good happened to the paralyzed man. He received forgiveness and healing from Jesus. As we engage our friends and/or encounter people who are seeking to be friends; Jesus tells us in John 15:12-14 to “love each other as I have loved you”. Jesus (v 14) assures us that we are His friends if we do what He commands.

Challenge – Take a mental inventory of people you interact with as “friends”. Consider ways you can show love that would be pleasing to God and to enable your friends to know the eternal love of Jesus. (HINT) Consider using a journal.

Question - Have you ever received a kindness from a friend (or friends) that impacted your life in a good or positive way? (HINT) Consider using a journal to record your thoughts.