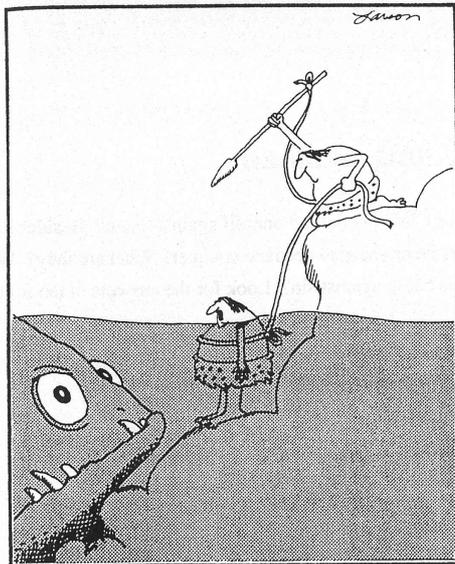


God the friend



"Now, Grog! Throw!...Throooooow!...Throw throw throw throw throw throw!..."

for a starter

What ingredients make up a good friendship between two people? And what things lead to disaster?

Into it

Jesus was often called a friend of 'sinners'. And looking at the quote on the right side of the page in John 15, I guess he would call us his friends too. But what does God as a friend look like?

Spend some time by yourself going over the proverbs on the other side of the page which speak about friendship. Read these verses, specifically viewing them as clues to the ways God want to be our friend. What do you notice? What can we expect from our friendship with God?

Jesus calls YOU a friend

"Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends... I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you."

John 15:13-15

some wisdom on the proverbial friend

A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy person keeps a secret.

Pr 11:13

Whoever covers over an offence promotes love, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends

Pr 17:9

A friend loves at all times, and a sister or brother is born for adversity. Pr 17:17

Someone with many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

Pr 18:24

Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses Pr 27:6

Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of one's friend springs from their earnest counsel Pr 27:9

As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another. Pr 27:17

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, her friend can help her up. But pity the one 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 Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Read 1 Samuel 18:1-4, 1 Samuel 19:1-7 and 1 Samuel 20:12-18

Jonathan made some big calls on the basis of his friendship with David. What do you notice? What were some of the outstanding features of this friendship?

How far should friendship go for us? Where should we draw the line?

God goes a long way to be a good friend to us. But what about us? Practically speaking, what would it look like to be a good friend to God?

has God been here?

What has this experience been like today as we've done this? It'd be great to share anything that has been said or read today that has impacted and/or challenged you – or even if you haven't been able to get into it, that'd be good to say too. This is a great chance to get real with each other

so what?

does anything change for me as a result of going through this stuff? To end off, spend a couple of minutes by yourself clarifying and summarising what you've learnt and what you're going to do about it.