

July 9, 2026

Choose Your Circle Wisely

July Series: Stronger Together

Week Focus: Better Together

Scripture – Proverbs 13:20 - *"Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm."*

Devotional Reflection

The people closest to us have a greater influence on our lives than we often realize. Relationships shape our thinking, impact our decisions, influence our attitudes, and affect the direction we move. This is why Scripture consistently teaches the importance of choosing our relationships wisely. Proverbs 13:20 reminds us that those who walk with the wise become wise. The people we consistently walk with will either encourage the person God is shaping us to become or pull us away from His purpose.

This does not mean we only build relationships with people who think exactly like us or that we distance ourselves from everyone who struggles. Jesus Himself loved, served, and spent time with people from many different backgrounds. However, there is a difference between people we love and people we allow to lead. We are called to love everyone, but we must be wise about who has the greatest access and influence in our lives. The voices closest to us often become the voices that shape us most.

Healthy relationships help strengthen what God is building within us. The right people encourage our faith, challenge us to grow, speak truth when we need correction, and support us during difficult seasons. They do not simply agree with everything we do; they care enough to help us become better. Godly relationships are not just comfortable—they are constructive. They help us move closer to the person God created us to be.

At the same time, we must honestly evaluate relationships that consistently pull us away from wisdom. Some connections encourage unhealthy patterns, negative attitudes, or decisions that move us away from God's best. Choosing your circle wisely is not about judging others; it is about stewarding the influence you allow into your life. Protecting your growth sometimes requires being intentional about who shapes your thoughts, values, and direction.

Today, reflect on the relationships around you. Who encourages your faith? Who challenges you to grow? Who helps you reflect Christ more clearly? Also ask yourself what kind of influence you are having on others. Strong relationships are not only about finding wise people—they are about becoming wise people who help others grow. When we choose our circle wisely, we create space for relationships that strengthen God's purpose in our lives.

Focus for Today

The people closest to me influence the person I am becoming.

Practice

- Identify the relationships that consistently encourage your spiritual growth.
 - Thank someone who has been a wise influence in your life.
 - Evaluate whether your closest influences are moving you toward God's purpose.
 - Ask God to help you become a wise influence for others.
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Prayer

Father, thank You for the gift of relationships. Give me wisdom to recognize the people who strengthen my faith and encourage my growth. Help me choose influences that draw me closer to You and become the kind of person who helps others grow as well. Teach me to love everyone while wisely stewarding the relationships that shape my life. Surround me with people who reflect Your wisdom and purpose. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Reflection Question

Who has the greatest influence on your thoughts, decisions, and direction, and is that influence helping you become who God created you to be?