

“Friend” – a beloved, a dear, a friend

“Master’s business” – “those things which a person makes or does”  
The details of a person’s life, what the person is doing, what their motivations are for making decisions, what their dreams are

“Know” – “to see or perceive”

To be allowed to observe another person in real-life situations, and to perceive another person’s heart and motives through relationship

“Made known” – “to come to know and make known”

Two-way relationship, to take the time to see, and be seen; to know, and to be known

### **Two Revelations:**

#### **1. The Foundation Of True Friendship Is Disclosure**

To have a friend is to have someone you are willing to “open yourself up to”, someone you are willing to disclose to, and someone you are willing to be disclosed to

“Disclosure” – “to reveal, to expose, to discover, to leak, to confess, to admit”

“Transparency” – “see through, clear, obvious”

“Intimacy” – “familiarity, closeness, understanding, relationship, confidence”, “in-to-me-see”

#### **2. The Process Of Building Friendships Is The Process Of Learning To Disclose**

##### **a) What Is Building Friendships All About?**

Learning how to be transparent and secure and free to disclose who you really are, at the core of your being

##### **b) Why Don’t People Have Friends?**

Because they either don’t know how to open themselves up to others in disclosure, or because they are afraid of opening themselves up, because of previous wounding

##### **c) We Must Commit To A Four-Step Process**

## **HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS**

### **Part 2 – The Process Of Friendship Building**

David Hibbert – November 30, 2003

#### **INTRODUCTION / REVIEW**

##### **1. I Am Designed For Relationship / Friendship**

Genesis 2:18, NIV – “The LORD God said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone. ...’”

##### **2. My Flesh Is Constantly Trying To Hide The “Real Me”**

Genesis 3:7, NIV – “Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.”

We try to hide behind our own “fig-leaf coverings”

##### **3. I Must Wear Only God’s Covering**

Genesis 3:21, NIV – “The LORD God made garments (coverings) of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed (covered) them.”

We must live each day in the freedom that Jesus purchased on the cross through His shed blood

##### **4. Healthy Christian Friendships Are A Witness To The World**

John 13:34-35, NIV – “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

But the world can’t see what you won’t risk

#### **THE BASIS OF ALL TRUE FRIENDSHIPS – DISCLOSURE!**

John 15:15, NIV – “I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.”

# FOUR-STEP PROCESS TO BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS

	# 1 - Linking	# 2 - Loving	# 3 - Lifting	# 4 - Liberating
House Analogy	Foundation	Floor	Walls	Roof
Purpose	Under the surface support	Base for building on	Support	Covering
Requirement	Right motivation (desire to bless)	Right attitude (truly care for)	Right structure (atmosphere of acceptance and security)	Right goal (to cover another person)
Level Of Friendship	Coffee (relaxed, informal)	Caring (some commitment)	Confessional (some transparency)	Covenantal (make covenants)
Verse	Hebrews 10:24 “ <i>Spur one another on</i> ”	Ephesians 6:19 “ <i>Pray also for me</i> ”	James 5:16 “ <i>Confess your sins to each other</i> ”	Hebrews 12:11 “ <i>Discipline ... produces a harvest of righteousness</i> ”
Focus	Encouragement	Burden Sharing & Bearing	Transparency	Transformation
Method	Encourage (You can do it!)	Burden Sharing And Bearing (God can do it through you!)	Challenge (God can do it through you ... if you let Him!)	Follow-up (Are you letting God do it through you?)
Develop Discipline In:	Thoughts	Feelings	Actions	Attitudes
Depth	Acquaintances (I want to be with you)	Comrads (I want to share with you)	Brothers/Sisters (I want to support you)	Christ-likeness (I want to protect and empower you)
Process	Form (establish the relationship)	Storm (work out differences)	Norm (build trust)	Perform (enhance each other)
Conversation	Informational (Surface Info.)	Emotional (Feelings)	Confidential (Personal Info.)	Confrontational (Loving Pressure)
Task	Spend Time With Each Other	Work Through Differences	Start To Build Covenants With Each Other	Challenge Each Other
Goal	Connect With Each Other	Commit To Each Other	Consecrate Each Other (Purify)	Character Development
Key Word	Reach	Relate	Responsible	Risk
Bible Example	Luke 15:6, NIV – “ <i>Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.</i> ”	Ecclesiastes 4:10, NIV – “ <i>If one falls down, his friend can help him up.</i> ”	Job 6:14, NIV – “ <i>A despairing man should have the devotion of his friends</i> ”	Proverbs 27:6, KJV – “ <i>Faithful are the wounds of a friend;</i> ”