

## **The Wisdom of Friendship: Proverbs Readings**

As iron sharpens iron,  
so one person sharpens another.

**Prov 27:17**

The righteous choose their friends carefully,  
but the way of the wicked leads them astray.

**Prov 12:26**

One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin,  
but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

**Prov 18:24**

Many claim to have unfailing love,  
but a faithful person who can find?

**Prov 20:6**

Walk with the wise and become wise,  
for a companion of fools suffers harm.

**Prov 13:20**

Wealth attracts many friends,  
but even the closest friend of the poor person deserts them.

**Prov 19:4**

Many curry favour with a ruler,  
and everyone is the friend of one who gives gifts.  
The poor are shunned by all their relatives—  
how much more do their friends avoid them!  
Though the poor pursue them with pleading,  
they are nowhere to be found.

**Prov 19:6-7**

A friend loves at all times,  
and a brother is born for a time of adversity.

**Prov 17:17**

Do not forsake your friend or a friend of your family,  
and do not go to your relative's house when disaster strikes you—  
better a neighbour nearby than a relative far away.

**Prov 27:10**

Those who flatter their neighbours  
are spreading nets for their feet.

**Prov 29:5**

Better is open rebuke  
than hidden love.  
Wounds from a friend can be trusted,  
but an enemy multiplies kisses.

**Prov 27:5-6**

Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart,  
and the pleasantness of a friend  
springs from their heartfelt advice.

**Prov 27:9**

A perverse person stirs up conflict,  
and a gossip separates close friends.

**Prov 16:28**

Whoever would foster love covers over an offense,  
but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.

**Prov 17:9**

A gossip betrays a confidence;  
so avoid anyone who talks too much.

**Prov 20:19**

Seldom set foot in your neighbour's house—  
too much of you, and they will hate you.

**Prov 25:17**

If anyone loudly blesses their neighbour early in the morning,  
it will be taken as a curse.

**Prov 27:14**

Like one who takes away a garment on a cold day,  
or like vinegar poured on a wound,  
is one who sings songs to a heavy heart.

**Prov 25:20**