

GUARD RAILS

PART 2: PROXIMITY

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever met someone that later you wish you'd never met? Is there a person you wish your husband, wife, son, or daughter had never met? Sometimes people are our greatest regrets because they influence us to ignore our guardrails and step into the danger zone.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who is someone in your life that has stood by you in good times and bad?
2. Talk about a time when you saw someone suffer because of his or her relationships. What happened?
3. Read Proverbs 13:20. Who is a person in your life whose wisdom you rely on? In what ways have you seen his or her wisdom rub off on you over time?
4. “*Judgmental* is when I draw a harsh conclusion about you. *Good judgment* is when I draw conclusions about myself based on wisdom.” To what extent has not wanting to be judgmental drawn you into unhealthy relationships in the past? How do Andy’s definitions of *judgmental* and *good judgment* change your perspective?
5. “Friends can be dangerous. And danger requires guardrails. You need to establish a standard that informs your conscience.” In what area of your life do you need to establish a standard? What first step could you take in establishing that standard?
6. Do you have a relationship that could benefit from guardrails? What can you do to begin to establish guardrails? What obstacles will you have to overcome? How can this group support you?

MOVING FORWARD

Friends influence the direction and quality of your life. Is your core group moving in the direction you want your life to move? Can you be yourself with that core group or do you have to pretend you are someone you're not? Do you often feel pressure to compromise? If so, it's time to establish some relational guardrails.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

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

Proverbs 13:20