## Circles of Friendship

From the life of Jesus, we learn principles for how to navigate our concentric circles of friendships. Jesus didn't just have the 12 disciples with whom he did ministry and lived in close community. He also seemed to spend intentional time with 3 of those disciples-Peter, James, and John. But he also had 70 other followers who he sent out to minister in his name. 70, 12, 3.

For the purpose of this exercise, we'll call these groups...

## Acquaintances, Community, and 2am Friends.

This exercise invites you to recognize who are in each of these groups and how to devote yourselves to each faithfully and with purpose.

1. Write down 70+ names of people who you associate regularly with but wouldn't consider to be in your inner circle of friends or community. These are people you might stop to ask how their family is when you see them, occasionally grab coffee with to catch up, or even pray for as they come to mind.

## Acquaintances


2. Write down 12-15 names of people who you would consider your close community. These are people you see or talk to more than once a month, people you would or could have deep and meaningful relationships with. (ex. Small group)

## Community


3. Write down 3-5 names of people you would call your closest friends. These are your 2am Friends - the people you wouldn't hesitate to call if you needed someone at 2am. You know their story, their kids' names, their struggles, etc... and they know yours as well.

## 2am Friends

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Now that you have identified these groups of people, begin to prayerfully consider ways to interact with these people accordingly. Sometimes we can spread ourselves too thin with too many people and we end up sacrificing vulnerability and depth of relationship with those closest to us. Likewise, we can try to go deep with too many people and hide in the obscurity of being known minimally by many.

Write down your reflections and applications:

