

Devotional Guide
June 29-July 3, 2026



Broken Arrow Friendships

Speaker: Mike Kleven, Lead Pastor

The message explores how we all face seasons when life overruns us and we need friends we can cry out to in crisis. Using the powerful "Broken Arrow" story from the Ia Drang Valley and

Jesus' words in John 15, it reveals that our deepest need is met by Jesus — the ultimate Friend who laid down His life for us on the cross, absorbing the contamination of sin, death, and evil.

The sermon calls us to celebrate the friendship we have with Jesus and to build deep friendships in the church so others can safely cry "Broken Arrow" and find hope and real help. This truth challenges us to be the kind of friends who show up in adversity and to point others to the Friend who gave everything.

How to Use This Guide:

Set aside 10-15 minutes daily. Read the Bible, reflect on the thought, answer questions, pray, and take the action step. Commit to this for growth—journal insights and share with a friend for accountability.

Day 1: The Cry for Help in Crisis

Bible Reading: : Prov. 17:17; 18:24

The sermon opened with the gripping story of Lt. Col. Hal Moore in Vietnam's Ia Drang Valley. Surrounded and outnumbered, facing certain death, he called "Broken Arrow" — a desperate plea for help even if it meant bombing his own position.

This illustrates a profound truth: we all face seasons when life overruns us. We were not made to face our darkest moments alone. Proverbs reminds us that a friend loves at all times and a brother is born for adversity. The big idea reminds us that God designed us for connection and provides the ultimate help in Jesus.

Reflection Questions:

1. What does Prov. 17:17 reveal about the kind of love a true friend shows?
2. When have you felt "overrun" by life and needed someone to cry out to?
3. How does the Vietnam story connect to your own experience of needing help?
4. What small step could help you reach out or be available for a friend today?
5. How does the big idea encourage you when life feels overwhelming?

Prayer Prompt: Jesus, thank You for calling me Your friend. Help me to build the kind of friendships where others can safely cry out for help. Make me a loyal, vulnerable, and prayerful friend. Amen.

Action Step: Write a note or text to one friend thanking them for being there in a hard time, or commit to praying for them daily this week.

Day 2: God's Design for Friendship

Bible Reading: John 15:13-15; Gal. 6:2

Jesus ties the highest level of friendship to self-sacrificing love: "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." He then calls His disciples friends, not servants, because He has made known to them everything from the Father.

The sermon reminds us that friendship doesn't just happen — it requires intentionality with time, vulnerability, loyalty, and prayer. We are called to be a community where people in crisis can cry "Broken Arrow" and find hope and real help. The big idea shifts our focus from self-protection to building deep connections empowered by the friendship we have with Jesus.

Reflection Questions:

1. What phrases in John 15:13-15 describe Jesus' view of friendship?
2. How have you experienced a friend becoming "closer than a brother" (Prov. 18:24)?
3. What does it look like practically to carry one another's burdens (Gal. 6:2)?
4. Where do you need to be more intentional in building deep friendships?
5. How does knowing Jesus calls you His friend change how you view your relationships?

Prayer Prompt: Jesus, thank You for calling me Your friend. Help me to build the kind of friendships where others can safely cry out for help. Make me a loyal, vulnerable, and prayerful friend. Amen.

Action Step: Write a note or text to one friend thanking them for being there in a hard time, or commit to praying for them daily this week.

Day 3: The Ultimate Broken Arrow —Sin

Bible Reading: Rom. 8:2; Col. 2:13-15

Long before any military code existed, humanity experienced a far greater "Broken Arrow" when sin broke loose in the garden. Disobedience contaminated every human relationship with God and one another, unleashing death and destruction.

The sermon explains that God the Father issued the ultimate Broken Arrow call by sending Jesus into the heart of enemy territory. On the cross, the full force of evil powers was unleashed on Jesus — not friendly fire, but the full contamination of sin, death, and Satan. Yet what looked like defeat became victory as Jesus disarmed the rulers and authorities (Col. 2:15) and canceled the record of debt against us. The big idea reminds us that Jesus absorbed what we could not survive so we could be rescued into friendship with God.

Reflection Questions:

1. How does the sermon describe the "contamination" sin unleashed on the world?
2. What does Col. 2:13-15 reveal about what Jesus accomplished on the cross?
3. How does knowing Jesus absorbed the full force of evil for you affect your view of your own struggles?
4. Where do you see the effects of sin's "contamination" in the world around you?
5. How does the big idea give you hope in the face of personal or global brokenness?

Prayer Prompt: Father, thank You for sending Jesus to answer the ultimate Broken Arrow call. Forgive my sin and thank You for canceling the debt against me. Help me live as one rescued from darkness. Amen.

Action Step: Confess one area of sin or struggle to God today and thank Him specifically for Jesus' victory over it on the cross.

Day 4: Jesus Answered the Father's Broken Arrow Call

Bible Reading: John 15:13; Gal. 3:13; Rom. 8:3

Jesus did not answer the Father's call with violence but with self-sacrificing love. He willingly went to the cross, laid down His life for His friends, and absorbed the full contamination of sin, death, and Satan. As Galatians 3:13 says, Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us. Romans 8:3 tells us God condemned sin in the flesh by sending His own Son.

The sermon emphasizes that this is the highest level of friendship — trading one's own life for the life of another. Jesus calls us friends if we do what He commands, trusting and following Him. The big idea becomes personal: the ultimate Friend has already entered our crisis and defeated it for us.

Reflection Questions:

1. How does Jesus' self-sacrificing love in John 15:13 differ from the world's view of friendship or power?
2. What does it mean that Jesus "became a curse for us" (Gal. 3:13)?
3. How does knowing Jesus absorbed your crisis on the cross change how you face current struggles?
4. What does it look like to "do what Jesus commands" as His friend (John 15:14)?
5. How will you respond today to the Friend who laid down His life for you?

Prayer Prompt: Jesus, thank You for answering the Father's call with love, not violence. Thank You for laying down Your life for me, Your friend. Help me to trust and follow You fully. Amen.

Action Step: Memorize John 15:13 this week. Each time you think of it, thank Jesus for being your ultimate Friend.

Day 5: Living as Friends of Jesus

Bible Reading: John 15:14-15; Col. 2:13-14

Jesus no longer calls us servants but friends, for everything He learned from the Father He has made known to us. When we trust Jesus, follow Him, and allow Him to guide our way, we become His friends.

The sermon closes with a clear invitation: if you are overrun by sin, guilt, fear, or pain, Jesus has already entered that place with you and for you. He has absorbed whatever you are facing and defeated it on His cross. But if you are not yet a friend of Jesus, you do not have access to His victory. The big idea calls us to cry out to the One who gave His life for His friends and to build deep friendships in His name so others can do the same.

Reflection Questions:

1. What does it mean to you personally that Jesus calls you His friend (John 15:15)?
2. How does the truth that Jesus has "absorbed whatever you are facing" (Col. 2:13-14) bring comfort?
3. If you have cried out to Jesus, how are you called to build deep friendships for others?
4. What "Broken Arrow" crisis in your life or someone else's needs Jesus' victory today?
5. How will you celebrate and share the friendship you have with Jesus this week?

Prayer Prompt: Loving Friend Jesus, thank You for making me Your friend. Help me to live as one who has been rescued. Use me to help others cry out to You and find real help. Amen.

Action Step: Share your story of friendship with Jesus with one person this week — in person, by text, or social media — and invite them to know Him too.

Day 6: Building Broken Arrow Friendships

Bible Reading: Galatians 6:2; John 15:13-15 (review)

Review the week: From the desperate cry in crisis to the ultimate answer in Jesus' self-sacrificing love. The sermon closed with two clear action steps. If you are overrun right now, Jesus has already entered that place with you and defeated it on the cross — cry out to Him.

If you are a friend of Jesus, you are called to build deep friendships so deep that a friend need only text you two words: "Broken Arrow." Knowing you will come, you will pray, and you will give whatever help you can. Friendship Sunday is about celebrating the friendship we all can have with Jesus and the friendships that carry us through adversity, empowered by Him. The big idea is our daily reality. Keep building; the world needs the hope of Heaven flowing through friends like you.

Reflection Questions:

1. What is one key insight you are taking away from this guide?
2. How has your view of friendship — with Jesus and others — changed over these six days?
3. Where will you apply "Broken Arrow" friendship in the coming week?
4. Who is one person you could invite into friendship with Jesus or deeper friendship with you?
5. How will you celebrate and keep the momentum of being a friend of Jesus going?

Prayer Prompt: Loving Father, thank You for the gift of friendship with Jesus and with one another. Keep me connected to You and help me be a faithful friend who points others to the ultimate Friend. Amen.

Action Step: Memorize the big idea this week. Share one takeaway from this guide with a friend or family member today and pray together.



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