

JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME

“Need a Ride?” (Relational Environment)

Community Group Curriculum for the week of January 18, 2015

Bottom Line: Loving relationships are the vehicle for discipleship.

1. We were created for relationships

Read Genesis 2:18. In Genesis 1 everything God made was said to be good and now in chapter 2 there's something that's not good. We know that Adam was not alone in the Garden of Eden; God was with him. So why would God say it is not good for Adam to be alone? Would you agree or disagree with the following: Without relationship with one another, we are not complete. Explain your answer.

2. There is conflict in relationships

Read Genesis 3:1-19. This passage describes the Fall.

a) What punishment does God give to the serpent, the woman, and the man? What evidence today is there of this punishment?

b) In Genesis 3:16 God says to the woman “*Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.*” How does this describe domineering leadership? How is this type of leadership different from the servant leadership taught and modeled by Jesus? Give examples of both below and discuss the differences:

Domineering Leadership

Servant Leadership

3. There is command regarding relationships

Read Exodus 20:1-17. Check out the Ten Commandments below. Each one reveals God's heart for relationships.

I You shall have no other gods before me – BREAKS RELATIONSHIP

II Make no idols and do not worship them – BREAKS RELATIONSHIP

III Don't misuse the name of God – HARMS RELATIONSHIP

IV Remember the Sabbath – HONORS RELATIONSHIP

V Honor your father and mother – BUILDS RELATIONSHIP

VI Don't murder – KILLS RELATIONSHIP (LITERALLY)

VII Don't commit adultery – BREAKS RELATIONSHIP

VIII Don't steal – BREAKS RELATIONSHIP

IX Don't give false testimony against your neighbor – BREAKS RELATIONSHIP

a) Describe and give examples of how each of the Commandments either break or help relationships.

b) Now read Matthew 22:34-40. Jesus summed up the Ten Commandments with two commandments. What are those two commandments and how does this describe a disciple of Christ?

4. Christ heals relationships.

Read Ephesians 2:14-16. After reading this passage how does the grace of God in the work of Jesus on the cross allow us to experience the kind of relationships we were created for?

5. Christians model relationships.

Read John 13:31-35.

a) How is the command in verse 34 a "new" commandment?

b) Why are we commanded to love in relationships while Jesus is away?

c) Finally, comment on the following observation by author and pastor Kent Hughes on verse 35:

"Possibly the greatest gift that we as the body of Christ can give the world is to love each other. If we do that, those on the outside will desire to learn more about the gift of gifts, the King of kings himself. The radicalness of Jesus' love in the Upper Room came as he reached out to one with whom he was not in accord. Will we love likewise, with his love?"

40 Days of Prayer (Days 8-14)

All of RCC is going through 40 Days of Prayer in conjunction with the series "Journey of a Lifetime." The booklet is available at the church as well as on the website. Each week's curriculum will include the topics and passages for that week. Included below are the topics and passage for days 8-14. May your time in prayer as a group focus on your relationship with God, the church, and others!

Day 8: Relationship With God

(Exodus 34:6; Jeremiah 31:3; Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Psalm 63:1-4; Isaiah 40:31; Jeremiah 29:13; James 4:8)

Day 9: Love In Relationships

(Romans 13:8-10; 1 John 4:7-12; John 13:34-35)

Day 10: Marriage Relationships

(Ephesians 5:25-30; 1 Peter 3:1-4)

Day 11: Family Relationships

(Deuteronomy 6:6-10; Ephesians 6:1-4)

Day 12: Relationships In The Church

(Psalm 133:1; Ephesians 4:1-3, 11-13; John 17:20-23)

Day 13: Relationships Within Our Community

(Jeremiah 29:7; 1 Timothy 2:1-4; Acts 26:17-18; Colossians 4:3-4)