

## #FORRELATIONSHIPS

Community Group Curriculum for the week of September 7, 2014

### **Big Picture**

We are designed for relationships with others, with ourselves and with God. It's part of our relational DNA. When those relationships are balanced and healthy, then all is ok. But often we live with broken, strained relationships or we hurt relationships with our own destructive habits. And too often we ignore the most important relationship – our spiritual connection with God. Always remembering our connection with God and taking personal responsibility are critical for success in all types of relationships.

### **Let's Explore Together!**

1. Read Genesis 2:18-23. This is the first human relationship that God created. If Adam enjoyed the greatest relationship possible – a close intimacy with God, whom he had all to himself, why did Adam need other people for relationship? List the ways that your life is blessed because of relationships.
2. The term *friend* can apply to any relationship. You can be friends with your spouse, children, coworkers, etc. What principles of friendship do the following verses embody (Proverbs 17:17; 18:24; 27:9; Ecclesiastes 4:10)?
3. In order to have healthy relationships with ourselves and others, we must first see ourselves through God's eyes and have a growing relationship with Him. Hey, who could understand us better than the One who wired us? However, it's easy to become confused about God's view of us. For clarification read Deuteronomy 30:10; Psalm 147:11; Isaiah 43:1-4; Romans 8:38-39; and James 1:18. Which verse(s) mean(s) the most to you? Why?
4. Evaluate the three kinds of relationships in your life (with others, with yourself, and with God). Which one takes the highest priority? Which one is healthiest and which one needs the most improvement?
  - Relationship with others:
  - Relationship with myself:
  - Relationship with God:

Are there relationships that you need to invest more time or more of Christ's love in? How are you doing with "loving your neighbor as yourself?" How about with difficult relatives, co-workers, or in a broken relationship?

5. Read Psalm 27. Throughout his life David was chased and threatened by enemies, some of whom were his own relatives. His reputation was constantly at stake, and as king he could not please everyone all the time. What do you see in this Psalm that shows where (or in whom) David placed his confidence and security? How did that assuredness help him through the roughest circumstances, including relationship problems with his closest relatives (see verse 10)? How does David's security in God encourage you to see yourself through God's eyes in regard to your human relationships?
  
6. Finally, read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 and discuss the qualities of love. Now take a look at 1 John 4:17-19. What role does love play in demolishing fear?

### **Prayer for Relationships**

"Jesus, help us know when to pursue, when to back down, when to let go, when to open up, when to share, when to listen, when to release, when to love well, when to forgive, when to give up bitterness, when to humble ourselves, when to stand up and when to pray. We give you every single one of our relationships – the awesome ones, the ones that drain, the ones conflicted, then ones confusing, the ones stumbling back, the ones filled with addictions, the ones far from Jesus and the ones close to You. Help us love well, release well, speak well, and listen exceedingly well. In your precious name, Jesus. Amen."

### **Personal Responsibility in Relationships**

Ask yourself these questions in regards to personal responsibility in relationships:

- What kind of person should I be?
- What would the "ideal you" look like in terms of your relationships?
- How can you choose to become the person that God wants you to be? What needs to change? What strengths can you build on?

### **Suggested Reading**

"The DNA of Relationships" by Dr. Gary Smalley

**INTRODUCTION:**

**SCRIPTURE:**

Ecclesiastes 4:7-12 and selected scriptures

**EXPOSITION:**

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of relationships (Eccl. 4:7-12; Gen. 1 & 2).

We are \_\_\_\_\_ for relationship.

2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of relationships (Gen. 3).

We choose to go it \_\_\_\_\_.

3. The \_\_\_\_\_ of relationships (Gal. 5:13-6:10).

It's not what you do with \_\_\_\_\_, it's what you do with \_\_\_\_\_.

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1.

2.

3.

4.

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