



TALK IT OVER



SMALL GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION

XO
February 10, 2019
Pastor Curt

In this series, we are talking about how we can develop godly / healthy relationships, because the way that the world conducts relationships is not working. The “normal” approach to marriage, singleness and parenting, builds conditional relationships on weak foundations that simply do not last over time. If we want our relationships to last, we need to do something different – we need to venture into the abnormal. If we are going to truly find the most rare and effective approach to relationships, we have got to look at the source of all love: our Father God. While the world tells us to love selfishly and conveniently, with as little vulnerability as possible, God shows us love that is unconditional, sacrificial, personable, acceptable and accessible. Our very first step in being able to build healthy relationships is receiving this love from God. We will be unable to show this kind of love to others without first receiving it ourselves. 1 John 4:19 says, “We love because He first loved us.” Once we have accepted the truth that we are loved in this extravagant way, we are empowered to show the same love to others. If we approach our relationships with intentionality, we have the opportunity to show God’s love in practical ways. We can speak it out loud, and we can write it down so that the people we love can read it again when they need to be encouraged. We can show our love through giving, and we can also demonstrate the unconditional nature of God’s love by quickly forgiving others. We should strive to live out the love of God in every interaction we have with others. If we use His incredible love for us as our source, our other relationships will thrive.

1. Pastor Curt shared a quote by Dr. Les Parrott from his book, Love the Life you Live. "If you try to build intimacy with another person before you have done the work of getting whole on your own, all your relationships become an attempt to complete yourself." Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not?
2. Pastor Curt also said that the first step in loving others is not moving towards the person, but moving toward Jesus – the author of love. What are some ways this week that you can move towards God as you prepare to show His love to others?
3. Why is it so hard to fully accept God’s love as the answer to our relational issues?
4. God’s love is unconditional, sacrificial, personable, acceptable and accessible. Which of these aspects have you experienced or related to most recently? Share an example with your group.
5. One of the secrets of love is allowing yourself to be loved by God. Share a time in your life when you experienced the unconditional, sacrificial, personable, acceptable and accessible love of God. How this changed the way you love others?