



There Is MORE for Our Relationships

OPENING QUESTION

Think about one person who has had a significant positive influence on your life. What did they bring out of you?

1. FIND GODLY PEOPLE

“Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.”

— Proverbs 13:20

“As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.”

— Proverbs 27:17

The people closest to us influence who we become. God designed relationships not only for companionship but also for **growth, encouragement, accountability, and spiritual formation.**

DISCUSS

1. What qualities make someone a **godly influence** in your life?
2. Who challenges you to grow spiritually?
3. Who tells you the truth, even when you don't want to hear it?
4. Who makes you want to love Jesus more?



5. What makes it difficult sometimes to surround ourselves with people who will challenge us?
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2. LEARN TO HANDLE CONFLICT GOD'S WAY

“If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense...”

— Matthew 18:15–17

“If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you.”

— Matthew 6:14

Conflict is inevitable. **How we handle conflict determines whether it destroys a relationship or creates an opportunity for growth and restoration.**

Jesus gives us a pattern: **go directly, pursue restoration, involve others appropriately, and forgive.**

DISCUSS

1. Why is it often easier to talk **about someone** than to talk **to someone**?
2. What usually happens when we respond to conflict out of emotion rather than wisdom?
3. What is the difference between trying to **restore a relationship** and trying to **win an argument**?
4. What does healthy, biblical confrontation look like?
5. What makes forgiveness difficult?



ASK YOURSELF

- Am I talking **to them** or **about them**?
 - Am I trying to **restore the relationship** or **win the argument**?
 - Am I responding like Jesus or reacting from my emotions?
 - Is there someone I need to forgive?
 - Is there someone I need to have a healthy conversation with?
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3. LEAD WITH LOVE

“Love is patient, love is kind...”

— 1 Corinthians 13:4–8

“We love because He first loved us.”

— 1 John 4:19

Biblical love is more than an emotion. It is a **choice and a way of living**.

Paul gives us a picture of what love looks like in action: patience, kindness, humility, forgiveness, truth, protection, hope, and perseverance.

PERSONALIZE THE PASSAGE

Read 1 Corinthians 13:4–8 again, but replace **“love”** with your own name.

For example:

“_____ is patient. _____ is kind. _____ is not easily angered...”

DISCUSS



1. Which characteristic of love comes most naturally to you?
2. Which one is most difficult for you?
3. Why do we sometimes allow frustration to determine how we treat people?
4. What does it look like to love someone when you don't necessarily **like** their behavior?
5. How does remembering that **God first loved us** change the way we love difficult people?

ASK YOURSELF

- Am I leading with **love or frustration**?
 - Am I seeing people through **God's eyes**?
 - Am I a person of love when things don't go my way?
 - Do my closest relationships experience patience, kindness, and grace from me?
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4. KEEP JESUS AT THE CENTER

“Apart from Me you can do nothing.”

— John 15:5

Healthy relationships aren't ultimately about finding **perfect people**. They are about becoming people who are increasingly connected to **Jesus**.

When Jesus is at the center, He shapes how we communicate, forgive, serve, confront, encourage, and love.

DISCUSS



1. What does it practically mean for Jesus to be **at the center** of a relationship?
2. How can a relationship look healthy on the outside but still not have Jesus at the center?
3. Does this relationship help me become more like Jesus?
4. What changes when we invite Jesus into the way we respond to difficult people?
5. What relationship in your life needs more of Jesus right now?

ASK YOURSELF

- Is Jesus the foundation of this relationship?
- Does this relationship help me become more like Jesus?
- Am I inviting Jesus into the way I love this person?
- Am I trying to fix a relationship through my own strength instead of depending on Jesus?

FINAL REFLECTION

Complete these statements:

- **God is showing me that I need to**
- **One relationship I need to invest in is**
- **One thing I need to change about the way I handle relationships is**