



Alignment

Week 7: Difficult Areas
Relationships



“Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven. Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law - a man's enemies will be the members of his own household. Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”



Matthew 10:32-39

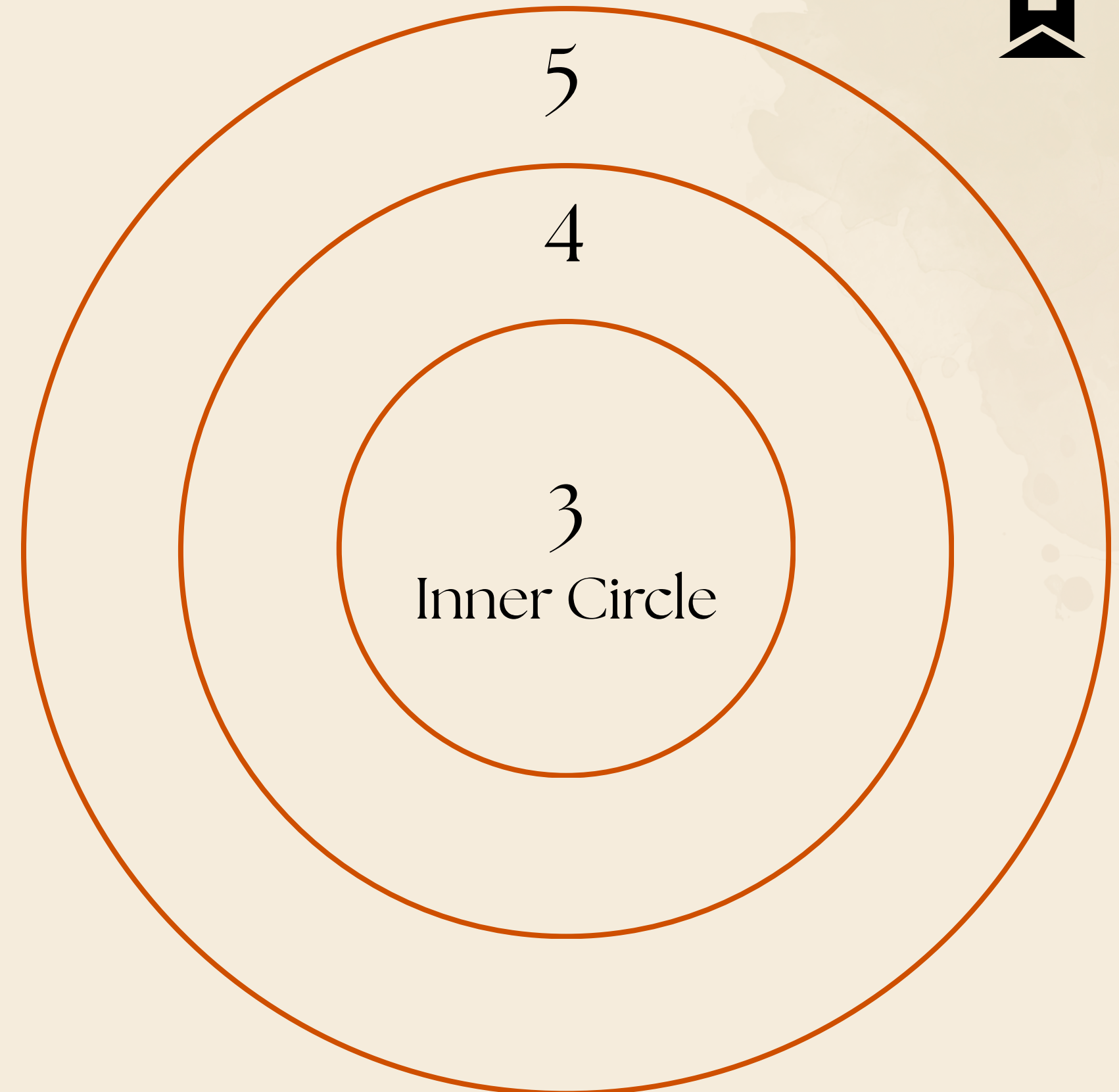
(1984 NIV)





Choose the Right Relationships

(Not regarding your ministry)





New Community Language: *Chosen Family*

“When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, “Dear woman, here is your son,” and to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.”



John 19:26-27
(1984 NIV)

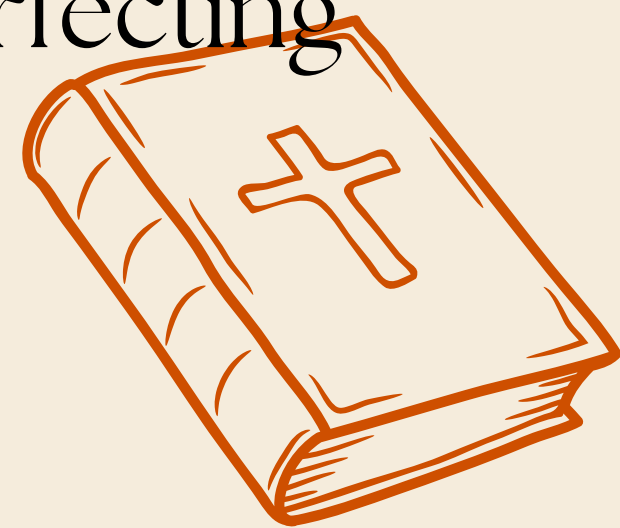


God's Plan

Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people. Therefore come out from them and be separate," says the Lord. "Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters," says the Lord Almighty. Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.

2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1

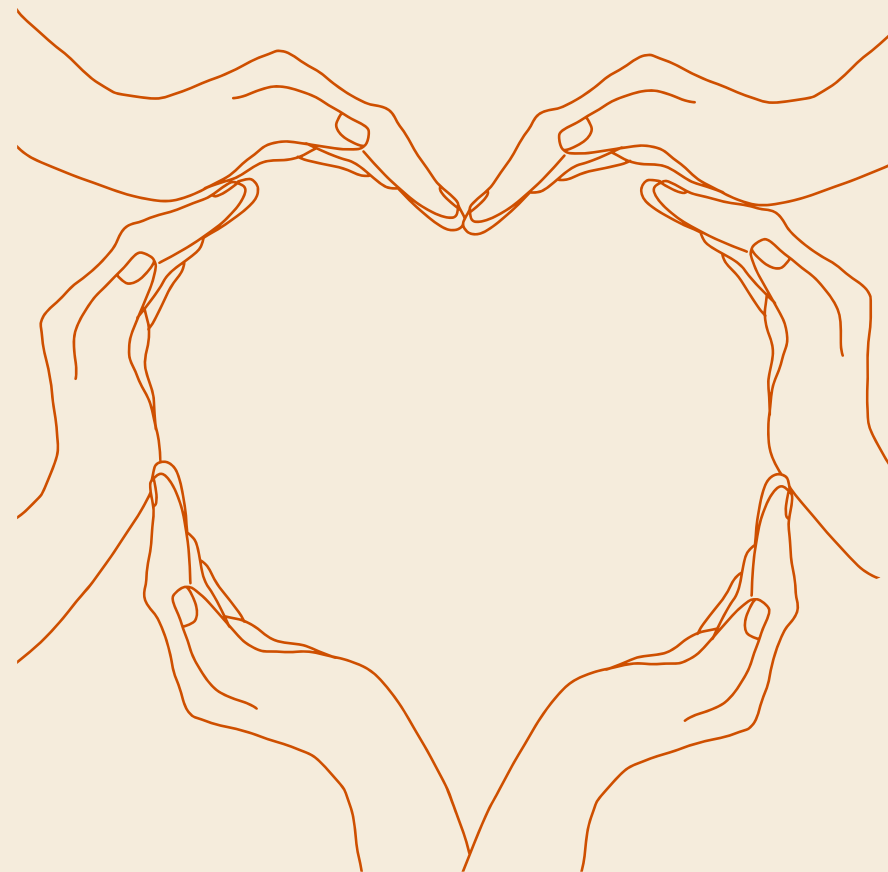
(1984 NIV)



Choose People in Alignment With God



Not Christians with words & good
intent or worldly people





Our Response to the Divided

“Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth,”

2 Timothy 2:22-25
(1984 NIV)



Our Response to the Compromised

- Psalm 1
- Psalm 15
- Psalm 139:21-22
- 2 Timothy 3:1-5
 - “But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.”



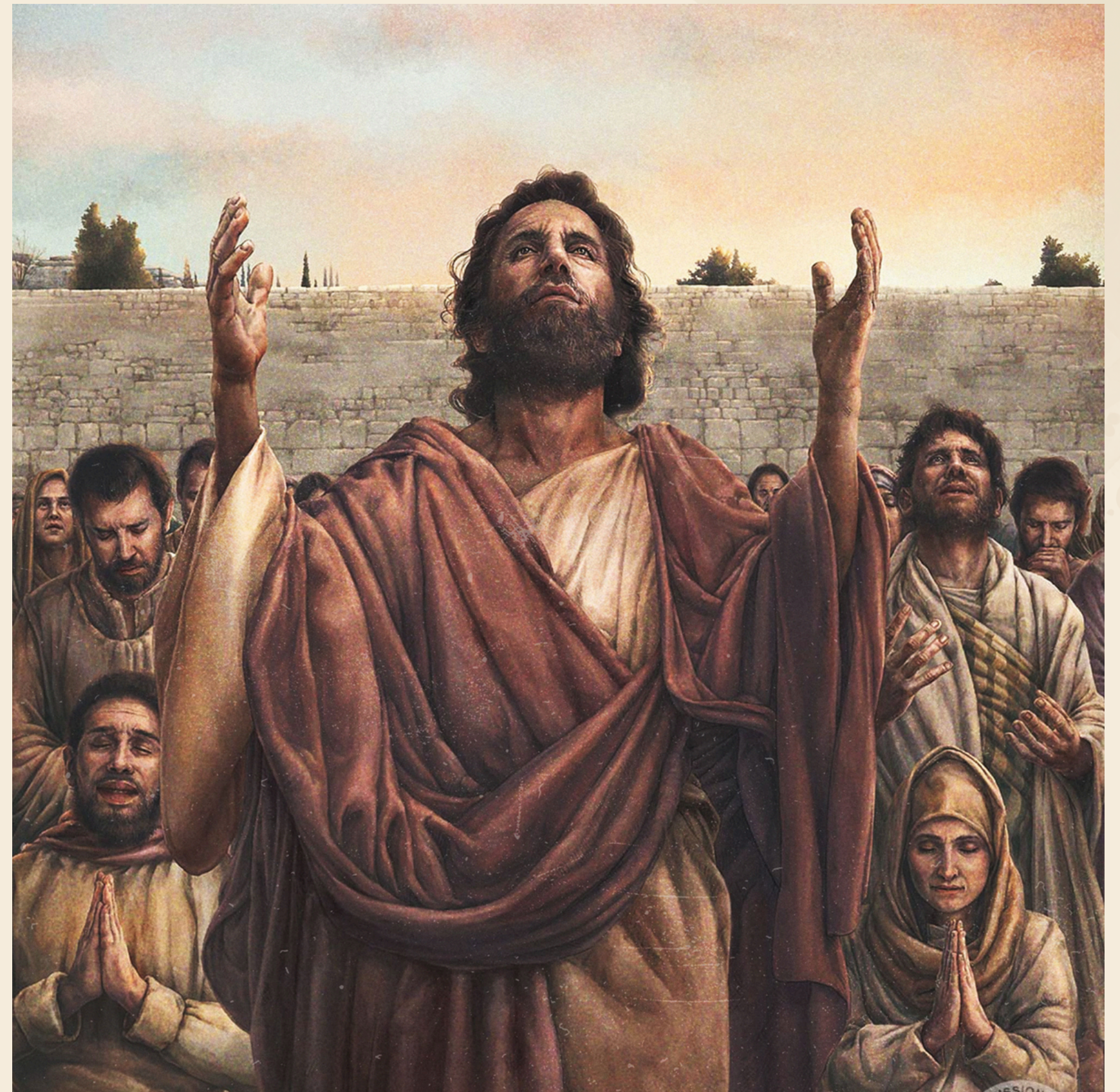
Bad Example of a Godly Man

Jehoshaphat

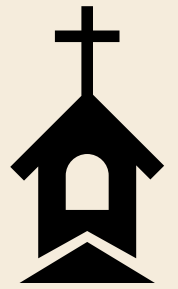
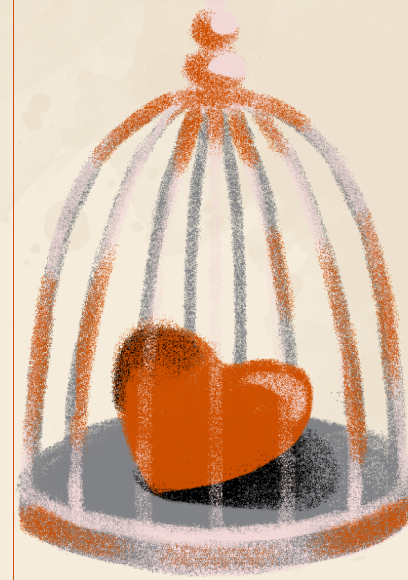
- 2 Chronicles 18-20

“Like a muddied spring or a polluted well is a righteous man who gives way to the wicked.”

Proverbs 25:26
(1984 NIV)



Look At The Heart



- Psalm 10:4-6
- Job 21:7-16

◦ “Why do the wicked live on, growing old and increasing in power? They see their children established around them, their offspring before their eyes. Their homes are safe and free from fear; the rod of God is not upon them. Their bulls never fail to breed; their cows calve and do not miscarry. They send forth their children as a flock; their little ones dance about. They sing to the music of tambourine and harp; they make merry to the sound of the flute. They spend their years in prosperity and go down to the grave in peace. Yet they say to God, 'Leave us alone! We have no desire to know your ways. Who is the Almighty, that we should serve him? What would we gain by praying to him?' But their prosperity is not in their own hands, so I stand aloof from the counsel of the wicked.”

Relationship Exercise

"He/she is the husband/wife of thy youth, who had thy affections when they were at the strongest, was thy first choice, and with whom thou hast live long."

Matthew Henry

Marriage

This exercise is designed help us cultivate a better understanding of our **spouse** - both the positive and challenging aspects. This will allow us to better align with our spouse and truly value them wholistically. More importantly, it will help us to understand the beauty and dynamic creativity of God's design for relationships in our life. Both you and your spouse should individually fill out this worksheet and then discuss together.

Why did God put my spouse in my life?

What are the positive attributes my spouse possesses?

What are the challenging attributes my spouse possesses?

Why did God put me in my spouse's life?

What are the positive attributes I possesses?

What are the challenging attributes I possesses?

Relationship Exercise

"It cannot be expected that he who is false to his God should be true to his friend." **Matthew Henry**

Friendship

This exercise is designed help us cultivate a better understanding of our **friendships**- both the positive and challenging aspects. This will allow us to truly value our friends wholistically and be more intentional at spiritually sharpening one another. More importantly, it will help us to understand the beauty and dynamic creativity of God's design for friendships in our life - both biological and chosen brothers and sisters. It serves as both an appreciation and evaluation of who in our life we are closest to and determines who might need to be moving closer and who might need to move away.

List your inner circle 3 friendships:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Evaluate each friend in their spiritual vitality from 1-5.

1= No fruit or no commitment to God.

3 = Lukewarm commitment to loving God and/or people.

5 = Deep commitment to loving God and people.

Now evaluate yourself on this scale and write down your number.

Then consider each of these friendships in light of your spiritual vitality and consider if you are equally yoked. If not, what should you do about it? If yes, see questions below.

Write down 2 attributes per person of why God put them in your life.

Next Step: What would it look like to pursue those friendships more intentionally?



Let Us Pray

