



Winter 2023 | 02.26.23

To catch up on the full Sunday messages from this series, check out our YouTube channel.

[\[YouTube Channel\]](#)

INTRO & ICE BREAKER

Introduce yourself and answer this: How have your expectations in relationships changed since high school?

RECAP & DISCUSSION

In this week's message, Pastor Mike talked about navigating unspoken expectations in our quest to define the relationships in our lives. Unspoken expectations often lead to disappointment because life doesn't always happen the way we think it should, and unmet expectations can lead to disagreements with other people when their expectations are different than ours. Our expectations can even get in the way of our relationship with Jesus if they don't align with his expectations.

Discussion: Let's spend a few moments sharing what stood out to us from the message on Sunday. What was new or unexpected? What impacted you the most? What did you talk about after service?

Pastor Mike begins by talking about our normal response to unspoken and unmet expectations. After constant disappointment, we either respond by lowering expectations or by forcing our expectations on others; both of these responses are unhealthy. To get healthy, we need to be clear about what we want.

Discussion: If we know life doesn't always go according to our plan, why is it hard to let go of our expectations? Do you lower or force your expectations? Why is it hard to be honest about what you really want?

Pastor Mike continues to explain that at the center of these unhealthy responses is an issue of control. In order to protect ourselves from further disappointment we want to be in control of our

lives, and the unspoken expectations of others can take us in directions we don't want to go. Trying to control others leads to fractured relationships.

Discussion: What are some areas in your life where it's difficult to give up control? How are the relationships in your life affected by those areas?

Have someone read: Mark 10:17-22

In this passage, a man with unspoken expectations meets with Jesus, but is disappointed by Jesus' response to his questions. The man, who expects to be commended for his ability to keep all of God's commandments, finds out that Jesus expects him to give up control of his life and follow him to places he doesn't want to go. While Jesus' response seems harsh, he communicates his expectations out of love for the man.

Discussion: What are some expectations that God has communicated through his Word or through Biblical teachings (sermons or wise spiritual guidance) that are different from your own. How did you choose to respond to those expectations? How did your choice affect your relationship with Jesus?

(For example, God teaches us to forgive others over and over again, but our own expectations can lead us to ignore that person or to harbor a grudge instead. When we choose to follow God's expectation of forgiveness we experience emotional freedom, but when we choose our own way, we only poison ourselves and may even get frustrated that Jesus hasn't changed the other person.)

Finally, Pastor Mike explains that we can limit disappointment and strengthen relationships by being open and honest about our expectations and making *agreements* with the people we love. Finding areas where we agree on our expectations can lead to accountability, commitment, and freedom within our relationships, and build a framework for navigating future expectations.

Discussion: Who do you need to be open and honest with this week about your expectations? How can honest communication, verbal agreement, and maintaining respect help you define the relationship?

ANNOUNCE

- **Building Update!**

- This Sunday, March 5th will be our last day at Centennial High School! It will be a day of celebration and gratitude as we thank God for the last 4 ½ years and pray over this next season. We have already begun to transition supplies and equipment into our new church home!
- Sunday, March 12th will be our first Sunday at our new building!
 - We will be moving to 2 services - 9am and 11am. Please RSVP so we plan out both services to the best of our ability!
 - 268 N. Lincoln Ave, Ste 17/18 (cross streets - Lincoln and Railroad, north of the 91).

PRAY

One of the things that we want to focus on each season of Life Groups is to get comfortable praying out loud together. Close out your time together with prayer. If you're a newer Life Group, the leader can set an example by leading in prayer, but explain that we'll all be doing this over the next few weeks together. Explain that prayer is simply talking to God - there aren't perfect words to say. Next week, encourage someone else to close in prayer!

Are there any prayer requests or praise/celebrations?

- Please pray for our new building and for the final details for our Phase 1 move in!

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