



The thing about
RELATIONSHIPS

THE THING ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS (April 7 to May 5)

Many relationships are under constant stress and fatigue. Fortunately, Jesus provides us wisdom showing us how to rethink the way we live among — and interact with — friends, coworkers, neighbors, strangers, and even family.

Icebreaker Quiz: How Critical Are You?

When your spouse, friend, or family member...

1. Gets a minor detail wrong while telling a story, do you:
 - (a) Interrupt and correct them publicly.
 - (b) Say nothing and let it go, knowing you've done the same.
2. Keeps making the same mistake over and over, do you:
 - (a) Become irritated and angry at them.
 - (b) Look graciously at what might be driving it, and then gently correct it.
3. Is getting more attention than you think they deserve, do you:
 - (a) Feel the need to bring them down a notch.
 - (b) Celebrate with them.
4. Says or does something you don't understand, do you:
 - (a) Assume they have the best motivation for doing it.
 - (b) Question their motivation, or think the worst.
5. You are more polite and grace-filled with:
 - (a) Strangers.
 - (b) Family.

Group Discussion

1. Read **John 12:1-8**. Why was Judas being critical? How does criticism often say more about the critic than the one criticized?

2. When has someone been negatively critical of you? How did their words effect you? When has someone used kindness to correct you? Which approach worked best?
3. How has a lack of kindness in our communication affected culture?
4. Criticism is contagious. Have you ever noticed yourself becoming more critical when you're around critical people?
5. Read ***Ephesians 4:32***. We should humbly remember God's grace for us. What would it look like if our motive with others was restoration? How can the church lead the way in this?

Next Steps

1. In your life, which relationships need less criticism and more kindness?

Resources

- ***Made for People*** by Justin Whitmel Earley

Next Week

We will continue our sermon series *The Thing About Relationships* by learning how to *Be Selfless, Less Selfish..*

- **Jasper:** 8, 9:30, and 11 a.m. EDT.
- **Loogootee:** 9 and 10:30 a.m. EDT.
- **Tell City:** 8:30 and 10 a.m. CDT.

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