

## Relatability - Introduction

Ice-Breaker: Who was your best friend growing up? Why were they your best friend?

*Show me your relationships and I'll show you your future...*

*He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm. (Prov. 13:20)*

Would you have classified your friends of the past as wise? If so, what wise principles did you learn from them? If not, what foolish things did you learn and thus suffer harm?

*Why do so many feel relationally impoverished?*

- Individualism/Isolation
- Pace of life
- Selfishness
- Fear/Insecurity

Rate the 4 threats above based on which have the greatest tendency to leave you relationally impoverished.

*The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" ...Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.  
(1 Cor. 12:21, 27)*

☞ *Relate-ability: working with God to become the person you expect others to be – “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,' when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye?” (Luke 6:41-42a)*

Consider the verse Luke 6:41-42 and the upcoming list of 7 principles taken from Proverbs 27. Read through the list thoroughly as a group. Identify which of these 7 needs your attention. Circle the top two and think practically about one or two things you might do in order to “*work with God to become the person you expect others to be.*”

*“Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine.” (John 15:4)*

*Proverbs 27: principles that benefit relationships...*

- Humility: it's not about you – “Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; someone else, and not your own lips.” (Prov. 27:2)
- Self-control: you de-escalate – “Stone is heavy and sand a burden, but provocation by a fool is heavier than both.” (Prov. 27:3)
- Courage: you lean in – “Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.” (Prov. 27:5-6)
- Intentionality: you invest in your 'place' – “Like a bird that strays from its nest is a man who strays from his home.” (Prov. 27:8)
- Faithfulness: you show up – “Do not forsake your friend and the friend of your father...” (Prov. 27:10)
- Selflessness: you go the extra mile – “He who tends a fig tree will eat its fruit, and he who looks after his master will be honored.” (Prov. 27:18)
- Authenticity: you're one faced – “As water reflects a face, so a man's heart reflects the man.” (Prov. 27:19)

Pray as a group that God would help you improve on the items circled above.

*As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another. (Prov. 27:17)*