

Beyond Sunday with Scripture References

Relationship Obstacles

A Sermon Application Guide

This guide is designed to offer a simple tool for those wanting to take the next step with Sunday's message. You can print this guide to study on your own, or use it in a group and experience transformation together.

"God, thank You for Your truth and wisdom. Help me to see what I need to see, hear what I need to hear, and know what I need to know. Holy Spirit, help me to understand in a way that shows me the Father's true nature and heart. May this time help me to know You more and become more like Jesus. Amen."

Message Theme & Prayer Focus

Obstacles To A Great Relationship

"Father, thank you for creating me for an individual relationship with you as well as intentional relationships with others. Open my eyes to see your perspective of what a healthy relationship looks like. Strengthen me when my relationships face obstacles resulting from my own choices or through circumstances out of my control. I put you at the forefront of my relating to others, to see others through your eyes and to love them with your heart. Thank you for growing your love inside of me for others. Let my relationships glorify you in all that is said and done, in Jesus name. Amen!"

Key Concepts/Truths

When God created marriage it was with Adam, Eve, and God.

Healthy relationships with others flows from us being in a relationship personally with our Father God, knowing our identity and living from that position.

To be successful in relationships, we need to value what God values in relationships. We achieve this with a covenant mentality instead of a contract mentality.

People will always have issues. A covenant mentality is committed to work through them.

We all have different needs that we come into relationships with and it's important to find out what those needs are.

Love is not self fulfilling. It is not a feeling, or a catch phrase. It is an action. Love lays down its life for another.

Many times when we experience something wrong we make a vow to ourselves to shut something out or to keep ourselves from experiencing that thing again, but making those

promises to ourselves can lead to a lot of bondage and damage in our lives. We need to open up and be vulnerable with Jesus. His truth ushers in freedom for the things in our past that weigh us down.

Insecurity can lead to us feeling attacked by others who actually love us and want to see us grow into maturity. Jesus wants to put us into relationship with others to thrive together, grow spiritually and impact the world for the Kingdom of God.

Bitterness in our hearts from a broken relationship is not worth carrying around because it will creep into other areas of our lives, spoiling even more.

Key Verses: Mark 5:1-20 • Proverbs 18:1-2 • 1 Corinthians 7 • 1 Peter 3:1-7 • Ephesians 5:25-27 • John 15:13

Which one truth do you already have evidence of in your life today? Ask the Lord for new ways to see even more of it for you and others around you. Write your answers out.

Which one truth is the most challenging or least existing in your life today? Why do you think this is? Ask the Lord if there are any beliefs or barriers that are keeping you from believing that particular truth. Write it out.

Daily Application

God intended for us to do life together in healthy relationships. For us to do that, we need to follow His design for them. When we focus on our own externals, fleeting feelings, and getting our personal needs met in relationships, we ultimately sacrifice genuine connection and real love as a result. When it comes to our relationship with God, a selfish focus will get us so off track from things that He has planned for us. Ultimately, healthy relationships designed around serving each other, and serving God, will fulfill us and actually give us the things we need and have been searching for.

Focusing on God's Word and the good works that He has prepared for us (like it says in Ephesians 2:10) will have us truly blessing people around us, pleasing Him and getting everybody's needs met along the way. Putting into practice God's design for healthy relationships will display His Kingdom and His love.

What relationship are you in that would benefit from a refocus on God? He's calling you to keep Him in focus, and as you do, you'll receive His abundant life in that situation. Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. Let's invite Him.

This Week's Declarations

Life is released when your words are in agreement with God. Intentionally speaking life and biblical truth out-loud is extremely powerful. In fact, you have that very life in the power of your tongue. These words below, when spoken out loud, will cause an acceleration of the reality of God's words in your life. We encourage you to speak the following with an expectancy to renew your mind and see God's fullness.

"I invite God into my relationships today. I recognize that with God at the center of my relationships they will experience His life. I know that when I serve God through serving others, He will meet all of my needs according to His great ability. I look to serve and fill others' needs through the love that Jesus displayed for me. I release all bitterness and unforgiveness in my heart toward any broken relationships with people. I will continue to pray that the Lord would bless and prosper (insert that person's name). I will glorify God in my relationships in all I say and do, and I will see His Kingdom on Earth as it is in Heaven."

What's Next?

Now it's time to write down anything that the Lord has spoken to you. Praise Him, Thank Him and ask the Holy Spirit to help you walk this out.

Scripture References

Relationship Obstacles

Mark 5:1-20 NKJV

Then they came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gadarenes. ² And when He had come out of the boat, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, ³ who had *his* dwelling among the tombs; and no one could bind him, not even with chains, ⁴ because he had often been bound with shackles and chains. And the chains had been pulled apart by him, and the shackles broken in pieces; neither could anyone tame him. ⁵ And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones. ⁶ When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshiped Him. ⁷ And he cried out with a loud voice and said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God that You do not torment me." ⁸ For He said to him, "Come out of the man, unclean spirit!" ⁹ Then He asked him, "What *is* your name?" And he answered, saying, "My name *is* Legion; for we are many." ¹⁰ Also he begged Him earnestly that He would not send them out of the country. ¹¹ Now a large herd of swine was feeding there near the mountains. ¹² So all the demons begged Him, saying, "Send us to the swine, that we may enter them." ¹³ And at once Jesus gave them permission. Then the unclean spirits went out and entered the swine (there were about two thousand); and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and drowned in the sea. ¹⁴ So those who fed the swine fled, and they told *it* in the city and in the country. And they went out to see what it was that had happened. ¹⁵ Then they came to Jesus, and saw the one *who had been* demon-possessed and had the legion, sitting and clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. ¹⁶ And those who saw it told them how it happened to him *who had been* demon-possessed, and about the swine. ¹⁷ Then they began to plead with Him to depart from their region. ¹⁸ And when He got into the boat, he who had been demon-possessed begged Him that he might be with Him. ¹⁹ However, Jesus did not permit him, but said to him, "Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has

had compassion on you.” ²⁰ And he departed and began to proclaim in Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him; and all marveled.

Mark 5:19 ERV

But Jesus did not allow the man to go. He said, “Go home to your family and friends...

Proverbs 18:1 NKJV

A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; He rages against all wise judgment.

1 Corinthians 7:28 ICB

...But those who marry will have trouble...

1 Corinthians 7:39 BLB

...she is free to be married to whom she wills, only in the Lord.

Ephesians 5:25 NKJV

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.

Malachi 2:14 NKJV

...Yet she is your companion And your wife by covenant.

John 15:13 NKJV

Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

Matthew 26:39 NKJV

He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, “O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You *will*.”

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 AMPC

Love endures long *and* is patient and kind; love never is envious *nor* boils over with jealousy, is not boastful *or* vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily. It is not conceited (arrogant and inflated with pride); it is not rude (unmannerly) *and* does not act unbecomingly. Love (God's love in us) does not insist on its own rights *or* its own way, *for* it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy *or* fretful *or* resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it [it pays no attention to a suffered wrong]. It does not rejoice at injustice *and* unrighteousness, but rejoices when right *and* truth prevail. Love bears up under anything *and* everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and it endures everything [without weakening]. Love never fails [never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end]. As for prophecy (the gift of interpreting the divine will and purpose), it will be fulfilled *and* pass away; as for tongues, they will be destroyed *and* cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away [it will lose its value and be superseded by truth].

Proverbs 14:15 NKJV

The simple believes every word, But the prudent considers well his steps.

Simple - without moral direction and incline towards evil

Proverbs 6:23 NKJV

For the commandment is a lamp, And the law a light; Reproofs of instruction are the way of life,