

Leadership Tip!

The more you share about yourself, the more comfortable others will be about sharing.

RELATIONSHIPS – WITH GOD**STARTER QUESTIONS:**

Generally speaking, how would you best define any relationship?

If you could change one thing about how you relate to God or others, what would it be?

MAIN IDEA:

We are currently in a series titled “Relationships,” looking at how our relationships with God and others in our life. This week we are studying our relationship with God.

Our sin separates us from God. Even since the fall of man there has been sin in the world. Satan is constantly at work trying his best to influence the decisions of each person, hoping to cause us to stumble into his trap. Lucky for us that is not the end of the story. God put into motion his plan for our salvation so that we can once again live in the presence of Him. Simply put, God has not and will not give up on us simply because we are human.

We were restored to friendship with God by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, so we will certainly be delivered from eternal punishment by his life. Now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God—all because of what our Lord Jesus Christ has done for us in making us friends of God! Romans 5:10-11 (NLT)

Pastor Hank discussed the relationship spectrum from very intimate relationships on one end to very hostile relationships on the other end. What the Bible says, and Pastor Hank discussed is that God will not accept us if we put Him in the middle of that spectrum, or just have a so-so relationship with Him. The bible is very clear in this regard. The book of Revelations 3:15-16 says “I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.”

So we know that we can and need to have a real, intimate, and personal relationship with God.

What are some of the obstacles we face in having the kind of relationship with God that God wants us to have with Him?

(Possible answers or ideas to guide the discussion)

- Our Situation: We live in a fallen world; he lives in heaven
- Our Senses: Can't see, smell, touch, physically hear, or feel him. We have spiritual souls in physical bodies; He is a spiritual being
- Our Substitutes: We create false idols; counterfeit Gods
- Our Adversary (Satan): There is an evil being who makes it his mission to disrupt any connection between us and God.
- Our Sinfulness: But the biggest problems we have... the one, by the way if we could only surmount this problem, we could begin a real relationship with God, and these other difficulties could begin to be address and corrected.

To whom do you turn when you are frustrated?

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world. John 16:33 (ESV)

How would you describe your best friend?

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. Matthew 25:35-36 (NIV).

FINAL THOUGHTS:

Romans 3:23-24 (ESV) “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.”

Knowing that you have a relationship with God, what do you want to do with that relationship?

How can our group pray for you as you navigate through the many different relationships in your life?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE:

James 4:7 Luke 15:7 James 1:14 Psalm 103:11-13 1John 1:9 Romans 8:1

THE ART OF RELATIONSHIP

“...With God”

March 19, 2017

“Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world.”

Matthew 25:34

(NLT)

“Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons.”

Matthew 25:41

(NLT)

“We were restored to friendship with God by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, so we will certainly be delivered from eternal punishment by his life. Now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God—all because of what our Lord Jesus Christ has done for us in making us friends of God!”

Romans 5:10-11 (NLT)

Difficulties in having a relationship with God:

- Our Situation
- Our Senses
- Our Substitutes
- Our Adversary (Satan)
- Our Sinfulness

“The trouble is that your sins have cut you off from God.”

Isaiah 59:2 (LB)

Sin personally offends a Holy God

God personally offers to take our punishment Himself

“We thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins!

But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. All of us, like sheep, have strayed away.

We have left God’s paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all.”

Isaiah 53:4-6 (NLT)