

2 Timothy 1:12: ¹² That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet this is no cause for shame, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day.

3. CHARACTER IS THE ABILITY TO CARRY OUT A RESOLUTION

Proverbs 20:7: *The righteous lead blameless lives; blessed are their children after them.*

4. COMMITMENT IS AN ONGOING JOURNEY

Philippians 3:10-11: ¹⁰ I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

2 Corinthians 11:25: *Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea.*

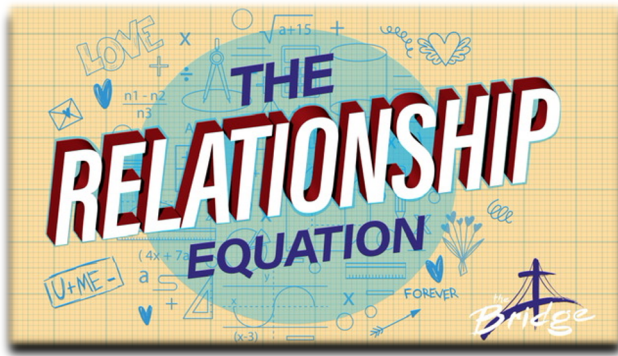
Ecclesiastes 4:12: *a three-fold cord is not easily broken.*

5. COMMITMENT IS MAKING A CHOICE TO GIVE UP OTHER CHOICES

Takeaways:

If you're married, to take time to talk to each other every day.

If you're single, invite the Spirit of the Lord to lead you in whether or not to pursue a relationship right now or not.



Discussion Guide

- Other than marriage, what is the hardest thing you ever committed to? Why was it hard and was it worth it? [5 min]
- Share a person who has inspired you with their level of commitment through a difficult relationship? [5 min]
- How have you found that commitment is continual and what strategies have you found to recommit to important things daily? [5 min]
- What difference would it make (or has it made) in your level of commitment, to recognize that your relationships reflect to others your commitment to Christ? [5 min]

Choose a relationship that you want to go deeper with (marriage, business partner, friend, or family member). Identify one thing you need to recommit to this week to protect that relationship. [10 min]

- Luke 23:46 (NIV) Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” When he had said this, he breathed his last.
- Acts 14:23 (NIV) Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.

Challenge: Scriptures

- Acts 20:32 (NIV) “Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.”
- 1 Peter 4:19 (NIV) So then, those who suffer according to God’s will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.
- 1 Timothy 1:18-19 (NIV) Timothy, my son, I am giving you this command in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by recalling them you may fight the battle well, holding on to faith and a good conscience.
- 2 Timothy 2:2 (NIV) And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.

Prayer: You might consider printing out this prayer and reading it aloud as a group: Lord, we commit first and foremost to you as our Lord and King. We pledge to you our loyalty and our lives. We offer you our allegiance and obedience, in that name of Jesus. Amen.