

Faithful in Relationships

Message from 1/12/25

TALK IT OVER

Key Scriptures

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Ephesians 4:29 NIV

“Don’t judge, so that you won’t be judged. You’ll receive the same judgment you give. Whatever you deal out will be dealt out to you. Why do you see the splinter that’s in your brother’s or sister’s eye, but don’t notice the log in your own eye?”

Matt 7:1-3, NIV

But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit...will convict the world of its sin...

John 14:26; 16:8

Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Matt 6:26

Jesus asked her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”

“No one, sir,” she said. “Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared.

“Go now and leave your life of sin.”

John 8:10-11

Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” John 21:12

BIG IDEA:

Faithfulness in relationships is to treat every interaction as an opportunity to add value.

How Jesus treated people:

1. When someone was worried, Jesus pointed them to God’s character.
2. When someone sinned, Jesus forgave.
3. When someone lapsed in faith, Jesus showed love.

Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- If someone were to describe something you are “usually” doing, what would it be? Why do you like this activity?

Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Which part of this message was most impactful for you and why?
- Which word or phrase from the Key Scriptures speaks to you most?

Start sharing. Choose a few questions to create openness.

- Two obstacles were mentioned for why it’s hard to build others up: 1. We are usually focused on ourselves. 2. We are focused on others’ flaws. Do you agree that these are obstacles? Are there other obstacles you would add?
- What did you think about the quote from the GenY who quit the church: “People in the church feel so entitled to tell you how to live your life. They police behaviors & choices, and they pass a lot of judgment on you...and all of this is clothed in ‘speaking truth in love’.” What is your response to this individual’s experience?
- 3 examples were given of how Jesus treated people. Which of Jesus’ responses stands out to you? Share a time when you responded to someone similarly or when someone responded to you similarly. What was the impact?

Start doing. Commit to a step to live out this week.

- Pre-decide that every word out of your mouth will be for building people up. Place Eph. 4:29 somewhere visible and read the verse every day for the next month.
- Ask God to bring an individual to mind who could use encouragement. Build them up this week with a text, call, or card.
- Think of someone who has quit Christianity. Commit to praying for them every day for the next month.

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power for each other.

Oh Lord, we’re pre-deciding today to being faithful in relationships by treating every interaction as an opportunity for adding value to others and building them up. Help us point others to your character, forgive, and show love and welcome. Forgive us for being focused on ourselves and others’ flaws. Forgive us for being judgmental. Help us be focused, instead, on your command to bless and encourage others. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.