



Building Successful Relationships

Leader Overview

Welcome

There is a deep connection between the way that we love one another and the way we love God. In this series, your Life Group will discover seven keys to building successful relationships and learn practices that will help you to develop your faith along the way.

Series Overview

Week 1: Love- *Whoever has the heart has the person. Take some time to explore what love really looks like in the context of your relationships. Jesus gives love to us without merit. What would happen to our relationships if we truly gave love without conditions?*

Week 2: Faith- *Faith is believing more for someone than they believe for themselves. This session will challenge us to choose to look at the people we love with God's eyes, and trust God to transform them.*


Week 3: Interest- *When you show interest in what interests somebody else, they take your interest as being interested in them. Building successful relationships requires that we step outside of our own interests, likes, and hobbies in order to be genuinely interested in the things our loved ones care about. What a counter-cultural way to focus our attention!*

Week 4: Availability- *Making room for others in crisis is one of the quickest ways to develop deep, meaningful relationships. Take some time this week to consider how available you are to others and allow Jesus to challenge you to be more available for the people in your life.*

Week 5: Respect- *Did you know that Jesus has entrusted us with the ability to establish someone's worth? When we choose to respect others (even those who haven't earned it) we exercise an incredible power to partner with Jesus in his transformational work!*

Week 6: Time- *Time is the key to unlocking the heart, and the things we spend our time on reflect our real priorities. Allow the Lord to challenge and comfort your group with this truth this week.*

Week 7: Communication- *Communication is the lifeline to every relationship. This week, you will gain a deeper understanding of the effects of unwholesome communication and lack of communication on relationships. Wrap up this series by learning what kind of communication brings life to your relationships instead of hurt.*



Discipleship Insights

- Your Life Group will get the most out of this study if everyone commits at the beginning to follow-through on the weekly challenge. Putting what we learn into practice is the fastest way to move information from the head (knowledge) to the heart (trust and obedience).
- Recruit someone in your group to help you co-lead this study. Choose the person in your Life Group who displays high emotional intelligence and ask them to pay special attention to the body language and responses of people in the room. Ask them for insights as you lead the study so that you can be sensitive to the relational and emotional dynamics and respond with care.
- **Proverbs 4:23** is the key verse for this entire study. Commit this passage to memory and then challenge your Life Group to do the same.
- Don't forget to set aside time each week for prayer. Pay attention to the prayer requests that come up, as your group members will likely give you special insights into their hopes for their relationships. Keep track of the prayer requests and pray for your group members throughout the week.
- At the end of the series spend some time reflecting on all the things your group has been praying for. Which prayers has God already answered? Where are your LG members seeing improvements? Pause and celebrate what God has accomplished!

Below are simple prayers you can provide for your LG members to pray each week:

Love: "God, show me who I need to love and help me to love others the way you love me."

Faith: "God, help me to trust you completely so I can have unwavering faith in others."

Interest: "God, who are the people you want me to focus on? Give me favor as I learn to invest in their interests."

Availability: "God, guide me to where I need to remove my barriers that keep me busy and help me to use this time to allow others in."

Respect: "God, help me to surrender my need to be first and give respect to others always."

Time: "God, teach me what you intend for the time you have given me."

Communication: "God, let my words be a reflection of your love and desires as I communicate with others."