



Love at Last Sight

The Art of Being All There



Leader Check-in

What are you hoping to achieve with this 30-day challenge?

Discover

What do you think about the statement, *“In the end the only thing that matters is your relationships?”* Do you believe it? Do you live as if this is true?

What does it mean to you to be “all there” for someone? What is it like trying to carry on a conversation while someone is watching TV, on his or her phone, or on the computer?

Read Luke 8:40-56. Jesus is busy and on His way to heal a dying girl when He stops to find out who touched Him. Why do you think it was important to recognize this woman and what had happened? How is Jesus being all there for her in that moment?

What do you think Jairus is thinking as Jesus takes time out for this woman? How do you deal with two or more people that need your time now?

Fully Own

Read Mark 2:1-12. Think through how each of the participants in this story would feel towards what is happening: the paralyzed man, his friends, the crowd, Jesus, the Pharisees, and the homeowner. How does this story relate to being all there?

What did the four friends give up performing this act of kindness?

In the end, what difference do you think this act made in the lives of those who experienced it? How have you experienced the results of an act of kindness?

Challenge

Kerry and his wife lay out several challenges for your group. 1) Commit to not missing any of the next three group meetings. 2) Commit to a Facebook/social media fast one day a week. 3) Commit to an act of kindness and love each week throughout the series. Be sure to share the results of the fast and the act of kindness each week.



Love at Last Sight

The Art of Acting Intentionally



Leader Check-in

How did the Facebook/social media fast and acts of kindness go?

Discover

Should good relationships happen easily and naturally? What has been your experience? How would you describe the three phases of relationships: first glance stage, second look, and the last sight stage?

Read Matthew 16:13-23. How might these verses demonstrate the first two phases of relationships? Was Jesus wrong about Peter being a rock for the church? Explain what you think would have happened if Jesus gave up on Peter right there?

Read 2 Kings 6:8-18. Do you believe that God has an army still working in the world today? Is Satan actually working to destroy your faith and friendships? Explain your thoughts behind these two questions. Pray for insight to see the spiritual connection to life today.

Fully Own

Read John 21:15-17. These verses tell us what Jesus did shortly after Peter denied knowing Jesus. What kind of intentionality does Jesus have with his disciples? If we are to be like Jesus, in what ways do we also need to be intentional in our relationships?

How would this intentionality lead us to deeper relationships and deeper discipleship?

The video mentioned that intentional relationships are much more taxing and require more effort. How have you found this to be true? Make a list of areas that relationships need to be intentional; think of friendship, discipleship and romantic relationships as you do this.

Read John 10:10. What tools does Satan use today to destroy our relationships? What can you intentionally do to overcome these pitfalls to build stronger relationships that bring joy?

Challenge

Develop a plan for finding deep joy in relationships. How will you hold yourself accountable to this plan?



Love at Last Sight

The Art of Risking Awkwardness



Leader Check-in

How did the first week of working to build intentionally strong relationships go?

Discover

Do you have a personal story of relational awkwardness you could share?

How might an unwillingness to enter into relational awkwardness define a relationship?

Read Mark 10:46-52. What likely would have happened if Bartimaeus had listened to those who rebuked him? How did knowing what he wanted out of the situation drive him?

Read Luke 5:27-32. Why did Jesus enter awkward situations with people that might sully His reputation? Why is this difficult for us to do today?

What does it mean to “see the last things first”? How does looking for the desired end help direct a relationship at the beginning?

Fully Own

Read Ester 4:6-17. What were the stakes for Ester as she stepped into the awkwardness? What drove her to risk her life? What has been your greatest relational risk of awkwardness? What happened because of that risk? What happened after not taking the risk?

Do you have relational issues right now that you know you need to step into the awkwardness? What is the situation and what is holding you back from jumping in?

How does jumping into the awkwardness move our conversations from the surface to becoming genuine? Why is honest discussion often the basis of moving past the awkwardness?

Challenge

From the relational issue you mentioned above, what can you do this week to move into the awkwardness and into healing and depth within this relationship?





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The Art of Letting Go



Leader Check-in

How did it go stepping into the awkwardness this week?

Discover

How have you seen controlling people hurt, ruin, and end relationships?

Read Daniel 3:8-30. What motivations do you think lie behind Nebuchadnezzar's actions? What about the astrologer's actions? How do people with little power or influence work to be controlling?

How have you been burned by giving control of something you care about to someone else?

Read Genesis 3:6-13. God gives Adam and Eve control over the garden and look what happens. How is this an act of rebellion? What actions of Satan, Adam, and Eve break trust with God and each other? What do these actions do to the relationships involved?

Fully Own

How did today's video suggest that our sense of control is really just an illusion?

Read John 19:1-11. What indicators would make people think Pilate was in control of the situation? Do you think most people today would say that political and business leaders control much of the world today? Explain.

Who does Jesus say is in control?

Why does Jesus's statement in John 19:11 make no sense if you are looking at the current situation, but perfect sense when you see it from a John 20 perspective?

Read Philippians 1:12-14 and Isaiah 55:6-9. How do you think you would act if you could see everything around you from God's end game perspective? What is holding you back from living as if God really is in control and loves you?

Challenge

How can you help one another grow in Christ and advance the Gospel no matter the situation or level of control? Pray for the power to trust God and do it.

