



RELATIONSHIP STATUS: Friendship

Pastor Derek Sanford

November 3, 2019

Life Group Discussion Questions:

1. Thinking back on this week's sermon, was there a particular point or passage that challenged you, confused you, or caught your attention?
2. At the beginning of his sermon, Pastor Derek asked everyone to write down the names of the five closest people in their lives. This helped to reinforce the big idea "Show me your friends and I'll show you your future." What kind of insights did you gain about the friendships in your life as a result of this activity?
3. Read **John 15:9-17**. These verses help us to see the importance of friendship as an act of obedience to our calling as children of God. How does this reframe your thoughts on the importance and value of friendship?
4. Pastor Derek laid out seven key building blocks for true friendship (find proximity, be present, be real, bring encouragement, remain faithful through the pitfalls, choose to forgive, provide honest feedback). Which of the seven is the hardest for you to give as a friend? Which is the easiest? Is there a friend that needs you in one of these areas right now? Conversely, do you struggle to receive any of these from your friends? Why?
5. Pastor Derek reminds us that Jesus is the best friend we could have, and that it's only friendship with Him that enables us to be good friends to others. Read **Psalm 73:26**. Is Jesus your "portion"? How do you feel about your current friendship with Him?

Next Steps: Two things to think about: Which of the building blocks do you need to work on this week? What is one thing you can do to deepen your own friendship with Jesus?

Prayer Thought: Read **Luke 5:17-26**. What did the men do for their friend? What did Jesus do in response? Bring a friend to Jesus- have each person in the group pray for a friend, whatever their needs are.



RELATIONSHIP STATUS: It's Complicated

Pastor Mike Watson

November 10, 2019

Life Group Discussion Questions:

1. Thinking back on this week's sermon, was there a particular point or passage that challenged you, confused you, or caught your attention?
2. Read **Matthew 22: 36-40**. What does Jesus' answer suggest about the value of relationships in the Kingdom of God? (Core of Christian living) Would you say maintaining healthy relationships holds the same priority in your life?
3. Since "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" it should be no surprise that we face conflicts and complications in our relationships with each other.
 - a. What are some common relationship 'busters'? (Selfishness, envy, gossip, bitterness, anger...) Which 'busters' do you face most often and how do you feel when the situation becomes complicated?
 - b. Have you ever considered these challenging relationships as opportunities to develop Christ-like behavior?
4. Pastor Mike described four leading relational complications. Ask volunteers to share examples of times that they have encountered one of these in a relationship and the effect that it had on the relationship long term: Unresolved offenses, Unwise actions or conduct, Unfulfilled expectations, Uncontrolled tongue
5. Read **Matthew 5: 23-24**. The scriptures make it clear that we are to resolve our conflicts with one another, but so often we let issues linger. Why do you think we avoid dealing with complicated situations?
6. Pastor Mike outlined four steps to restoring broken relationships. Which one(s) do you find most challenging? Why? (**Matthew 18:15**; **Ephesians 4:26**)- Confront without delay, Commit to working through it, Communicate through honest sharing and vulnerability, Listen –really listen

Next Steps:

-Consider your current primary relationships. Identify a situation that you would describe as 'complicated,' spend some time in prayer, and then take a step toward restoration.

-As a group, commit to helping each other grow stronger in Christ-like behavior through the inevitable complications that arise. Identify one or two issues you are most likely to avoid working on. Check in with each other regularly to encourage progress.

Prayer Thought: Break up into groups of two or three. Each share one relationship complication that you are currently facing (someone you need to forgive/ask forgiveness of, confess an unwise action, etc.). Spend some time praying for restoration.



Relationship Status: Single

Pastor Derek Sanford

November 17, 2019

Life Group Discussion Questions:

1. *Leader- please be sensitive to the different life stages of the members of your group. Beware of those in one stage trying to “correct” someone in another. Gentleness, love, respect, a listening ear- these will go far in creating a safe space for everyone to share.
2. Thinking back on this week’s sermon, was there a particular point or passage that challenged you, confused you, or caught your attention?
3. Read **Genesis 2:18 and 1 Corinthians 7:8-9**. These two verses often seem to be contradictory. Why are they not actually contradictory?
4. One of the challenges *everyone* faces is sexual temptation. How does **1 Thessalonians 4:3-8** address this?
5. Who is the author and *perfecter* of our faith? What does it look like for *anyone* to live a life of holiness? What are the unique temptations/challenges facing us in different stages of life?
6. Read **1 Corinthians 7:32-35**. What are the benefits of singleness? Why does this become harder when you’re romantically attached?
7. Read **1 Corinthians 7:17**. What does it look like to serve the Lord well in your stage of life? How can you encourage someone in a different stage of life to serve the Lord?
8. What is one thing in your life that keeps you from being “single-minded” about knowing Christ and sharing him with others?
9. What does it look like for the church to care well for people in each stage of life: single, married without children, married with children, divorced, single parents, widowed? How could our care for each other bring others to know Christ?

Next Steps: To the singles: what is one way that your singleness could bring glory to God or service to His church this week? To everyone else: who is one single friend or family member that you could invest love and encouragement in this week?

Prayer Thought: Quietly confess how you have not cared well for people in different life stages and how you have let other things keep you from being “single-minded” about Christ. Pray as a group for opportunities to witness and care well for people in every stage of life.



RELATIONSHIP STATUS: Married

Site Pastors

November 24, 2019

Life Group Discussion Questions:

6. Thinking back on this week's sermon, was there a particular point or passage that challenged you, confused you, or caught your attention?
7. Read **Philippians 2:1-2**. Verse 1 gives a list of obvious blessings that every believer receives by their union with God. Name them and describe how you are seeing them manifested in your life. In verse 2 there are three things Paul wants us to be unified in, centered on having the "same ____." What kind of love do you think he is referring to?
8. Read **Philippians 2: 3-4**. How does pride affect any relationship? The verse says to do NOTHING out of selfish ambition or conceit so the bar is pretty high. In what ways do we often make excuses for our selfishness and conceit?
9. The "Big Idea" for this week's sermon is that relational unity comes down to a choice that comes from humility. In the sermon we learned that humility recognizes our inherent worth and seeks to use whatever power we have at our disposal on behalf of others. How have you seen that to be true in your marriage or other relationships?
10. Read **Philippians 2:5-9**. How does this passage describe the humility of Jesus? How did Jesus fulfill the definition of humility that is given in question 4? Why did he do this?
11. Read **Philippians 2:9-11**. Describe how Jesus was and is exalted in this passage. How can Jesus' exaltation by God the Father impact our ability to live a humble life in all of our relationships?
12. Consider watching and discussing the first three minutes of "Love Delights in Another's Joy" by John Piper. <https://www.desiringgod.org/labs/love-delights-in-anothers-joy>.

Next Steps:

For couples: Have couples share some of their discussion about how their marriage can have a bigger impact on their world as a couple rather than as separate individuals.

For everyone: What step toward Christ-like humility do you need to take in a relationship?

Prayer Thought:

- **ADORATION:** Praise Jesus for humbling himself to the point of death on a cross
- **CONFESSION:** Confess your selfishness and pride that are exposed in your relationships.
- **THANKSGIVING:** Thank Jesus for giving the perfect example of humility, love and power.
- **SUPPLICATION:** Ask God to build humility into your character.

Suggested Memory Verse: Philippians 2:3b in humility count others more significant than yourselves.