



“Relationship Truths”

Next Steps Series

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3 Big Relationship Truths:

Truth #1: I can expect **PROBLEMS** in my relationships.

“Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’ The woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’ ‘You will not surely die,’ the serpent said to the woman. ‘For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband who was with her and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.” Genesis 3:1-7

- **EXTERNAL PRESSURES** are always there trying to get us off God’s best course for us.

Truth #2: **ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY** for my relationship problem.

- *“The man said, “The woman You put here with me – she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it. Then the Lord God said to the woman, ‘What is this you have done?’ The woman said, ‘The serpent deceived me, and I ate.’” Genesis 3:12*
- Ask yourself the hard question: “What is **MY RESPONSIBILITY**?”
 - Then ask: “How can God use this problem to grow **MY CHARACTER**?”
- God uses relationships to **GROW** us into what He wants us to be.
 - When you climb the mountain of difficulty **TOGETHER**, & you get to the other side, that’s where real **SECURITY** & **INTIMACY** is found!

Truth #3: Invite **GOD** to be the center of my relationship.

- *“A chord of three strands is not easily broken.” Ecclesiastes 4:12*

C3 Group Questions

Last Week's Next Steps: Did you gather at C3 on Sunday to express your faith? Did you build your faith this week through consistent time in prayer & God's Word? If so share what stood out to you in your time with God?

IceBreaker: What does the perfect relationship, of the opposite sex, look like to you?

Review: What one thing stood out to you (either helpful, insightful or troubling) from the weekend's message?

Group Discussion:

Read Psalm 144:7. Have you ever prayed a "rescue" prayer like this before about a relationship? Why or why not?

Read Genesis 3:1-7. The snake put external pressure on Adam & Eve's relationship. What are some things that put external pressure on married or dating relationships today?

Read Genesis 3:12. Did Adam & Eve accept responsibility for their actions? Why or why not?

Do you personally accept responsibility for when things go wrong in a relationship or do you blame someone else like Adam & Eve did? Why or why not?

If you accept responsibility, what does that look like in your relationships?

When asking yourself, "How can God use this problem to grow my character?"....in your relationship, what are some areas God is using your relationship to grow your character?

Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12. What are the benefits of "two" in verses 9-12? How is the proverb in 12b a fitting conclusion? How can inviting God to be the 3rd party in your relationship help strengthen your relationship?

When you climb the mountain of difficulty together, & you get to the other side, that's where real security & intimacy is found.

- Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
- If you're in a relationship with someone of the opposite sex, what are some mountains of difficulty you've climbed together? How did that help build security/intimacy in your relationship?

How can this group pray for me? How can I pray for those in my group?

This Week's Next Steps: (*"Do not merely listen to the word.....Do what it says."* James 1:22)

- **Read Genesis 2 & 3 this week.** Pray in your own words asking God to show you:
 - The difference in Adam & Eve's relationship in chapter 2 compared to chapter 3.
 - How to keep God as the center of your relationship(s).