

Water of Life Community Church

CORE VALUES

RELATIONSHIPS

WEEK #4

ICE BREAKER

OPEN IN PRAYER

WORSHIP

INTRODUCTION

Relationships are especially important to God. From Genesis to Revelation, everything in the Holy Bible is about our relationship with God and people. In 1 John 4:8, the scriptures tell us that God is Love. In that regard, we know that God is relational as love and relationship go hand-in-hand. His love for us is the basis of our relationship with Him. He commanded us to love Him and others. This is the first rule of engagement. Based on Acts 2: 42-47, God does not want us to be isolated and alone, but in thriving, loving relationships. All throughout the scriptures He provides us with commandments, instructions, and stories that inform us on how to engage in distinct types of relationships on many levels including family, personal & professional beginning with our relationship with Him and then others.

God has also called us to love one another, have a heart of compassion for one another, and serve one another, helping those in need. He wants us to be “other-centered” , caring for and bearing one another’ s burdens, making the needs of others a priority, and demonstrating kindness and generosity to others. In that regard, relationships require hard work, and it is the power of his Holy Spirit that enables us to love and serve one another and do the hard work required in relationships. So, be filled with The Holy Spirit every day.

Furthermore, in order to have healthy deep life-giving relationships in the Body of Christ there must be trust, and therefore honesty. God requires authenticity, honesty, openness, sincerity, and transparency from us. To have strong healthy relationships we must be honest with ourselves, honest with God, and honest with others. During the early church, dishonest merchants would fill the cracks in their wears with wax to fool unsuspecting customers. We

should not try to hide who we really are, act like someone else or hide behind a false persona (Prov. 24: 26, 2 Cor: 4:2). Let God and others see your cracks

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic. 1. READ 1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-13.

What does this scripture reveal about God's people? What were we all given? What does this scripture reveal about our Heavenly Father?

2. READ ROMANS 15:1-3.

As members of the Body of Christ, how does God expect us to behave with one another? How do we bear the weaknesses of those around us? What should be our attitude when doing this?

3. READ ROMANS 12:3-5,9-11.

What is this scripture telling us to do? What can we as members of the Body of Christ do to become more self-aware and honest? How does this help the Body of Christ?

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

- Is there an area of your life in which you can begin strengthening your relationships? How will you start? What do you need to do? Is there anything about your life, or your character that you have not been honest with yourself about? What faults or flaws do you hate to admit? What lies could you be telling yourself?

MEMORY VERSE

PSALM 133:1-3

"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down on the collar of his robe. It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore"