

**SERMON SERIES:** Relationships  
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## Key Line

Christ-centered relationships become life-giving relationships.

## Introduction

We all have relationships that drain us and some that give us life. Think of one of the ones that energize you.

- What is positive about that relationship? How does your relationship with that person make you feel better?

Think about a difficult relationship in your life

- What makes it difficult?

There are four stages of all relationships.

- Infatuation: we love everything about the other person.
- Dissatisfaction: we begin to see the cracks in the relationship and find things we do not like about the other person. We feel like distancing ourselves or ending the relationship.
- Work: if we decide to continue the relationship, we have to start working to make it better or maintain it.
- Success: we feel satisfied that the relationship becomes stronger.

## Seek the Word

King Solomon is known as a wise man. He wrote the book of Proverbs.

Read Proverbs 14:12.

- What does this verse say about human wisdom? (*It leads to death.*)
- How does this apply to relationships? (*We may do or say things that create problems in relationships or we leave relationships in order to do things our own way instead of God's way.*)
- Have you seen this happen in relationships in your life? Share a story about that if you feel comfortable.

Read Matthew 22:36-40.

- What are the two things that Jesus says are most important? (*Love God with all your heart, soul, and mind and love your neighbor as yourself.*)
- How do we show our love for God? (*By loving other people.*)

## **Talk About It**

What are practical ways we can love other people every day? What does really loving others look like?

Homework: think about these two questions.

- Have relationships in your life been slipping because I've been trying to do things my way?
- What do you think God wants to do in you to move those relationships forward?