



Relationships

Message by Tim Perkins

1/27/19

"Most people have uphill _____ and downhill _____."
- John Maxwell

Romans 12:2 MSG

Habit #3: _____ my _____ carefully.
(Proverbs 27:19 TLB)

_____ my important relationships. (1 Peter 4:7-8)

_____ my broken relationships.
(Romans 12:17-18; Colossians 3:13)

- "...Be at peace with each other." (Mark 9:50)
- "...Love one another..." (John 13:34)
- "...Serve one another in love." (Galatians 5:13)
- "...Stop passing judgment on one another." (Romans 14:13)
- "...Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you many have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you!" (Colossians 3:13)

_____ any harmful relationships.
(Matthew 5:27-30; Proverbs 13:20; 1 Corinthians 15:33)

_____ some meaningful relationships.
(Hebrews 10:25; Proverbs 27:17 NLT)

Mastering the Habit:

1. Develop my relationship with _____. (Ephesians 2:19 LB)

2. Develop my relationship with _____. (Acts 2:44 LB)

3. Develop my relationship with a _____. (Ecclesiastes 4:8-9)

4. Develop my relationship with _____.
(Jeremiah 29:13 NLT; James 4:8 ESV)

Midweek Small Group Discussion:

1 Samuel 19, 20

From Tim's Sunday message, what stood out and motivated you towards deeper community?

How many more people could you add to your existing Life Group while still maintaining a relational approach to growth and discipleship? What excites you about having new people in your group? What about that concerns you? Are there members of your Life Group who have not attended in a while? List specific ways you will reach out to them this week. (Remember, your group time is not the only opportunity you have to build community!)

The story of Jonathan and David's friendship is quite extraordinary. Begin by reading 1 Samuel 19:1-7. Why was King Saul (Jonathan's father) intent on killing David? (If you are not familiar with the story, skim through chapter 18 to read what stirred Saul to jealousy and anger.)

Of these three men (Saul, Jonathan and David) who can you most relate to in this current season of your life? Saul – angry and jealous? Jonathan – having to play peacemaker? David – running for your life?

From 1 Samuel 19:1-7, what does this tell us about the role of loyal friendship when reconciliation is needed? What words and actions by Jonathan in 1 Samuel 19:1-7 surprise you? Why? If you found yourself in Jonathan's position – caught between two people who are at odds – what principles do you glean from Jonathan's words and actions?

1 Samuel 20 is another story of Jonathan thwarting his father's plan to kill David.

What was at stake for Jonathan as he intervened for his friend David? (1 Samuel 20:24-34). List the things that Jonathan stood to lose or forfeit when David became king.

Read 1 Samuel 20:41-42. What is your first thought or reaction as you hear their friendship described in this way?

How rare are these type of Godly, same-sex friendships modeled by Jonathan and David? Is there anyone in your life who would take such great risks for you? Who is a person for whom you would risk losing your life and your future?

As you go through life, will you have more "Sauls" in your life, or more "Jonathans"? What does your answer tell you about the role of strong, committed friendships?

Not every friendship you have will be marked by the close bond we see between Jonathan and David. Does a strong, "Jonathan-David" friendship in your life eliminate or lessen the need for other levels of friendships? If your answer is "no," what might be the role of those other friendships?

How can you deepen your friendship with God so that you are better equipped to deepen your friendship with others?