

CONNECTED

WHERE LIFE AND RELATIONSHIPS BEGIN



New International Version is used for questions

1. This was a celebration of Mother's Day, what do you remember of what your mom did for you? Do you have a favorable or unfavorable memory of mom? Share some of the things you remember.
2. Read Ephesians 4:32 and Colossians 3:13. Pastor Rick said that we need to make room for grace instead of constant criticism in our relationships. Why do you think it seems so easy to be critical and so hard to extend grace to others? What can we do to flip this tendency?
3. Read Ephesians 4:15. Why does the bible always link saying the truth with love? Have you ever known someone who devastated people by speaking the truth without love? Have you ever personally experienced this? How did it make you feel? Can you think of an example when Jesus spoke the truth in love to someone who had done what was wrong?
4. Rick and Shelley said that we need to take the first step toward reconciliation even if it's not our fault, what did they mean? Why is this so hard for us to do? What could be the thing that should make us willing to do this? Have you ever had to do this? What was the result?
5. When there are difficult situations in your relationships, what is your typical response: To engage or to run away? What is the danger of running away from conflict?
6. The Bible tells us to show honor to the people in our family. What are some ways you can do this, even when members of our family make it hard to honor them by their actions?

2. *Our sinful natures cause us to focus on mainly the negative and some people have that tendency as part of their personality. There were three things that were given in the sermon we can do to flip this tendency: a. Pause before I respond; b. Look beyond past failures to a bright future; and c. Speak one encouraging word daily.*
3. *The reason the Bible always links truth with love is because the purpose of speaking the truth is to help people to live what is true. If you do not speak truth in a loving way, they will focus on how you say it and not what you say. Speaking the truth without love can be the worst thing you do for someone because how you say it is louder than what you say in their ears. The most cited example of Jesus doing this is the woman caught in adultery in John 8:1-11.*
4. *They meant that even when another person is the cause of conflict, we should be the ones who approach them to solve the conflict. This is hard because our sense of justice tells us that it was not our fault and so it should be on them to take the step to solve the conflict, they caused it. The thing that should cause us to be willing is the value of the relationship, especially when it might be family members. Restoring the relationship should be more important than seeing "justice" done.*
5. *The danger of running away is first of all eventually you will begin to resent the person because the conflict has never been resolved and you can become bitter toward them. Secondly, the destruction of the relationship could be the result of unresolved conflict.*
6. *Encourage your members to think of positive things that they could do to honor even those who really do not deserve to be honored.*

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