

Weekend Teaching Discussion Guide

Relationships: Week Four

Teaching by Jackson Murphy

WARM-UP QUESTION

When you think about the relationships that matter most in your life, what is one thing someone has done that made you feel loved, supported, or valued? What made that moment meaningful?

DISCUSS

1. Relationships Require Intentionality

Jackson Murphy and those interviewed reminded us that relationships do not become strong by accident. Whether we are building friendships, raising children, investing in a marriage, or caring for aging family members, every relationship requires intentional effort. What matters most is not simply spending time around people, but choosing to invest in them with love, grace, and purpose.

The people we love will change as they grow, and our relationships will change with them. Every season brings new opportunities to connect, encourage, and grow together.

Read *Proverbs 27:17*.

- Why do you think meaningful relationships require intentional effort rather than simply happening naturally?
- What is one practical way you could be more intentional in a relationship that matters to you?

2. Build Your Relationships on Christ

Jackson emphasized that our relationship with Jesus must be the foundation of our lives, not just another part of them. When Christ is at the center, His truth, character, and love

shape the way we treat others. This foundation influences our friendships, marriages, parenting, and every relationship we develop throughout life.

The young adults in the teaching shared how easy it can be to pursue God more when life is difficult and neglect Him when things are going well. A growing relationship with Jesus requires consistent pursuit in every season.

Read *Matthew 7:24–25*.

- What are some things that can compete with Jesus for the foundation of our lives, and how can those distractions affect our relationships?
- What is one habit you could develop to keep Christ at the center of your life and relationships?

3. Practice Grace, Encouragement, and Honest Love

Healthy relationships are not built on perfection. They grow when people offer grace, speak truth in love, encourage one another, and create space for mistakes and growth. In the teaching, parents shared the importance of reminding their children that they will always have a place in the family, even when they make poor decisions.

Friendships also require this kind of love. A true friend does not simply tell us what we want to hear. A good friend cares about our spiritual growth and is willing to lovingly challenge us, while remaining open to correction themselves.

Read *Ephesians 4:2–3* and *Proverbs 27:6*.

- How can we balance showing grace with lovingly challenging someone when they need direction?
- Who in your life needs more encouragement, patience, or grace from you right now?

4. Choose Community Over Isolation

God did not design us to navigate life alone. The teaching highlighted how easy it is to confuse constant digital connections with genuine community. Social media, texting, and online interactions can help us stay connected, but they cannot replace the value of showing up, sharing life, praying together, and carrying one another's burdens.

The early church demonstrated this kind of community by gathering regularly, sharing meals, praying together, and meeting one another's needs. Strong relationships grow when we move beyond casual contact and become actively involved in one another's lives.

Read *Acts 2:42–47*.

- What is the difference between being connected to people and experiencing genuine community?
- What is one step you can take this week to strengthen your connection with your church, friends, or family?

5. Trust God Through Every Season

Relationships and family life change with time. There are seasons of joy, uncertainty, grief, conflict, and transition. Jackson shared the wisdom of people who have experienced many stages of life, reminding us that God remains faithful through both the highs and lows.

As children grow into adults, parents must learn to pray for them, love them, encourage them, and give them room to make their own decisions. As relationships change, we can continue to trust God's direction and celebrate what He is doing in the lives of others.

Read *Proverbs 3:5–6* and *Psalms 31:14–15*.

- How can trusting God help us navigate seasons of change, disappointment, or uncertainty in our relationships?
- What might it look like to love someone well while allowing them the freedom to make their own decisions?

CLOSING REFLECTION

Which statement best reflects where you are right now?

- I need to be more intentional about investing in the relationships that matter most.
- I need to make Jesus the foundation of my life and relationships.
- I need to extend more grace, encouragement, or loving honesty to someone.
- I need to move beyond surface-level connection and pursue genuine community.
- I need to trust God through a changing season in my life or relationships.

Take a moment to share your response with the group and identify one practical step you will take this week.

PRAYER

Close by thanking God for His faithfulness and for the people He has placed in our lives. Ask Him to help you build every relationship on the foundation of Jesus, to love others with grace and honesty, and to be intentional about investing in the people who matter most. Pray for stronger families, deeper friendships, meaningful church community, and wisdom to navigate every season of life. Thank God that even when human relationships fall short, His love remains faithful, and through Jesus we can have a relationship with Him that changes everything.