



Sermon Discussion Guide

Relational Transformation - Tim Knipp

1-19-25

Hook - Getting to know one another

- *How is everyone doing this week? Add other questions to get to know one another, especially ones related to the topic in the sermon.*
- *What was the first friendship outside your family that you can remember? What did you do to foster that relationship?*
 - *I'm thinking about my own best friend from Kindergarten and how we spent time riding bikes, eating, playing sports, generally being with each other and leaning into the things that we had in common.*
- *If you are interested in something different and are physically capable, try a team building exercise. One that I believe especially shows our reliance on others and building trust is the Circle Sit. See video below. (Note! Offer ability to sit out, try something else, etc). Another option would be the trust fall (but as a former youth worker, trust falls can fail spectacularly... know your group!)*
 - <https://youtu.be/jJIZ9Y3HLuA?si=DOIQaDZvsEw00I02>

Book - Scripture

- *Read the scripture passages and discuss to understand **what the text is saying**:*
 - *Reread Romans 12. Identify all the elements of relational interaction.*
 - *I'm reminded of Jesus' interactions with the people around him and his disciples. Look back into the Gospels and find ways that Jesus provides context for Paul's thread in Romans 12 of relational intentionality. I.e. Jesus weeping with others about Lazarus, Jesus washing the disciples feet.*
 - *What other Biblical relationships show us a sanctification process? Jonathan and David; Elijah and Elisha; Mary and Elizabeth. What elements of good relationships from Romans 12 show up in these examples?*



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Look - Connections to our world today

- *This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what's wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.*
- *Brainstorm specific things that affect relationships under the categories Pastor Tim mentioned:*
 - *Busyness (do you work beyond a normal 40 hours?)*
 - *Technology (phones?)*
 - *Mental health (anxiety, depression)*
 - *Polarization (not just political...)*
 - *Conflict*
- *What issues do you see in our church community preventing good relationships? What about in your workplace or home? What about in the City of Bellingham/Whatcom County?*
- *What do you think the world could look like in right relationship with God and with others? Dream big!*

Took - Personal Application

- *This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.*
- *Pastor Tim's takeaway questions are vital to the week and great reflections:*
 - *Take some time to evaluate the overall relational health in your own life. If your immediate family is in good standing, think workplace, mom's groups, PTA, etc...*
 - *Ask a couple of friends, what your relational strengths are and what are your areas to grow. While this might be difficult in small groups, many could find it to be a challenging and encouraging time. If you don't want to do this as a group, spend time identifying some of these for yourself.*
 - *What could change in your own life if you realized your belovedness to God?*



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- *What ways do you see yourself currently conforming to the pattern of the age and "in view of God's mercy" what would it look like to push back against that conforming?*

Time of Prayer