

JESUS & RELATIONSHIPS

Lesson 1

Dear Parents,

This week we began a new series called "Jesus and Relationships." Over the next four weeks we will examine how knowing Jesus impacts our relationships with other people. Our first lesson was entitled "Be Understanding." We helped students see that grace and understanding are crucial to Christ-centered relationships.

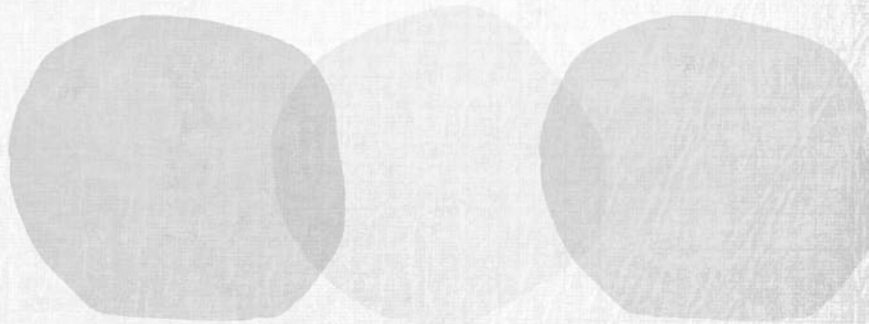
We studied a familiar passage, Luke 6:41-42. I encourage you to take a few moments and read it yourself.

Next Steps . . .

During the next week as you have time to talk with your teenager, consider asking the following questions:

- I know you talked about the difference between being understanding and being judgmental. Why do you think it is important to extend understanding to others instead of fault finding?
- Is it easier to see faults in other people or ourselves? Why?
- Why do you think Jesus instructs us to consider our own sin first and foremost? How would this step change the way you interact with other people?

Thank you for all you do. If you have any questions about anything, please don't hesitate to call me.



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Lesson 2

Dear Parents,

This was our second week of the series "Jesus and Relationships." If you remember, we're studying how the teachings of Jesus should impact our relationships with others.

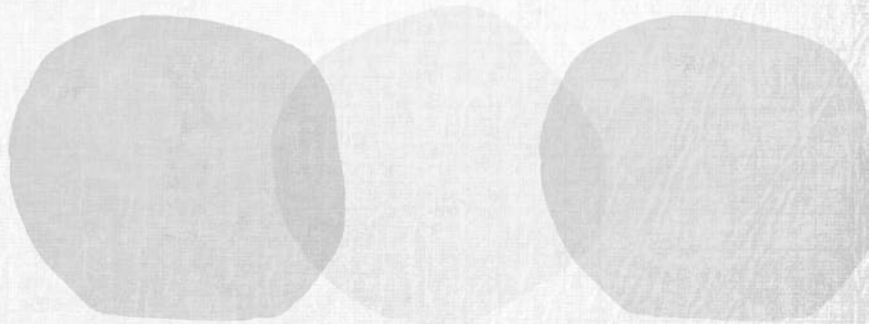
Our second lesson was "Playing Peacemaker" and the main idea was that there is no room for anger or hostility in Jesus-centered relationships. We studied Matthew 5:21-24, which is one of Jesus' most shocking statements. Take a few moments to read this passage and, as you get an opportunity, engage your teenager in a conversation about it.

Next Steps . . .

Here are a few questions you could ask to get the conversation going:

- The teaching of Jesus you studied this week is pretty shocking. Did it shock you? Why?
- How does Jesus' teaching on anger impact your relationships with other people?
- Why do you think it's important for us to not allow angry to take root in our lives? What could be some of the consequences?

I love partnering with you to disciple your teenager! If you have any questions about anything, please don't hesitate to call me.



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Lesson 3

Dear Parents,

Greetings again! We have just completed the third week in our four-week study on Jesus and Relationships. We had a great time together again this week!

Our focus for Bible study was dealing with a difficult relationship. All of us have experienced a difficult relationship. We had a great time discussing how a Christ-follower should handle them. Jesus was very clear when laying out the proper steps for experiencing reconciliation with those who have wronged us.

We looked at the following Scripture passages:

- Matthew 18:15-17
- Philippians 2:1-11

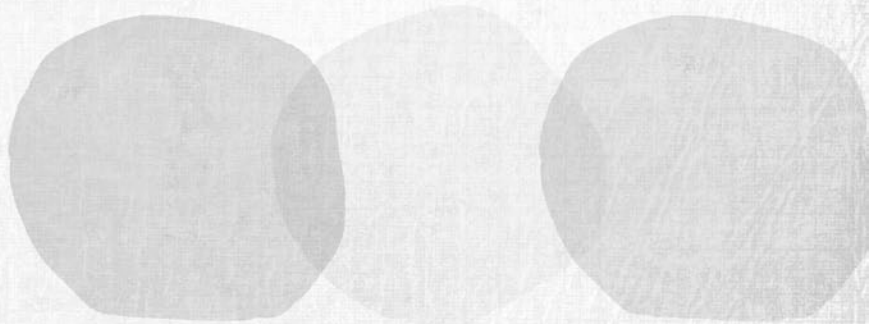
These are great verses for not only helping us know the specific steps to dealing with difficult relationships but also the proper attitude we should have. If we are going to follow Christ and handle relationships as He did, we must also have His attitude. This is one of humility, tenderness, and compassion.

Next Steps...

During the next week as you are with your teenager and have time to talk, consider using the following questions to guide your discussion:

- When you think about dealing with difficulties in your relationships, what do you think is the most difficult part of what Jesus tells us we should do?
- You know, sometimes it's so much easier to talk to our friends when someone is difficult than to talk to them. How do you think that could affect a relationship? Do you think it would make it harder to reconcile?
- Imagine you're the person someone else is going to confront. How do you think Christ would have you respond to them?

Thank you for all you do! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me.



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Lesson 4

Dear Parents,

This week we have completed our study on Jesus and Relationships. We have had a great time of fellowship and learning as we have sought to learn what Christ has to say about honoring Him in our relationships.

We completed the series with a lesson entitled "Relationship Number 1." We live in a society where we are told to "look out for number one." Unfortunately, this typically does not mean Christ; it means self. Christ's teaching that He must be number one in our lives goes completely against that. As we consider how this will impact our students, let's be certain we also consider the implications this has in our own lives as we model Christlikeness for them.

The verses we focused on this week were:

- Matthew 10:34-39
- Luke 14:26-27
- 1 John 4:20-21
- John 13:35

As you have the opportunity this week, use the following questions as discussion starters with your teenager:

- When you think about your closest friends, are they people who make you want to learn and be more like Christ? Are they a distraction to you as you try to follow Christ?
- How can keeping your relationship with Christ as your number one relationship impact your friends who may not have a relationship with Christ?
- Is it difficult to make Christ the number one relationship in your life? Why do you think that is? (Parents, this is a great opportunity for you to share with your student some of your own thoughts and struggles in relationships you may have. How have you seen following Christ impact your relationships in a positive way? Share that with your student as an encouragement to them.)

This is not an easy topic for any of us! While we know what we must do, putting action to that is very difficult! Thank you for all you do to encourage growth in your student, even when it's hard. If there is anything you need, don't hesitate to contact me.

