

Life Group Discussion Guide

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

GET REAL

1 Thessalonians 2:7-8
Stuart Jones - May 1, 2016



INTRODUCTION

If you remember dial-up telephones and party lines, you may want to ask your grandkids about Snapchat. The means through which people interact have certainly changed. While it's fine to accept and embrace these changes, timeless principles should still guide the spirit of our communications. Words of kindness, encouragement, love, and forgiveness make things better. Critical words, regardless of whether they are spoken, texted, or posted, cause harm. In the coming weeks we will learn steps that lead to more positive relationships. A great first step is to improve our relationship with Christ, which will almost certainly improve our relationships with others.

DISCUSSION STARTER

1. Who is your best friend? Why would you give them that title?
2. How would you define a deep relationship?
3. Do you think Facebook and other social media outlets provide an artificial reality of relationships? Can a person have 1,025 friends (people who have checked a box), and be lonely?

EVALUATE IT

1. Stuart said, "Whether we are introverted or extroverted, we have a part of us that thinks it would just be easier to not let anybody too close." Have you experienced this in your own life? Why do we think this way?
2. Are cultivating deep relationships risky? Why or why not?
3. The Apostle Paul said, "We loved you dearly. Not content to just pass on the Message, we wanted to give you our hearts. And we did." Why go the extra mile? With thousands needing to hear Paul share the message of Jesus Christ, why take the extra time?
4. Why do we need people in our lives? Why is it worth going the extra mile to build deeper relationships?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. How have long-lasting committed relationships had a positive impact on you?
2. What are the biggest barriers to you experiencing deeper relationships? What can you do to change that?

ILLUSTRATION

Not long ago I walked by a wall poster that brought me back for a second look. I can't remember the artwork, but I've never forgotten the pithy, pointed message: "Involvement with people is always a very delicate thing...It requires real maturity to become involved and not get all messed up." -Pamela Reeve, *Relationships*

The most consistently endearing human trait is warmth. Everybody responds to the person who radiates friendliness from a serene core. Such people are lovely to be around because they don't reject or belittle and, best of all, they bring out the best, most generous qualities in the people they encounter.

-Barbara Walters, *How to Talk with Practically Anybody about Practically Anything*



Interested in joining or starting a Life Group?
Contact our Life Groups Minister.

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