



The Ugly Truth About Relationships

Week 1 - Show Some Love Discussion Guide

Life is full of relationships. It's inevitable that we will interact with other people on a daily basis. Sometimes those interactions are good, sometimes they are bad. But the ugly truth is this: we need to be more responsible in our relationships. That starts with learning to show love.

1. Compare the best and worst gifts you have ever received.
2. *Own The Greeting*. First impressions are everything. The first few moments of interaction can determine the course of a relationship. How do you normally greet people? Whether you're trying to start or strengthen a relationship, how can you improve the way you greet people? (Study: Romans 16:1-16, Philippians 4:21, Colossians 4:18)
3. *Show Affection*. Trying to figure out how to show affection appropriately, added to the fear of being rejected, can make this a challenging task. What does showing affection look like to you? How can you improve the way you are affectionate? (Study: Romans 12:10, 2 Corinthians 6:11-13 [read also from The Message Bible if available])
4. *Love Deeply*. Relationships that make it for the long haul all have two things in common: disappointment and deep love. All relationships will contain some amount of disappointment. All of them. How we respond to that disappointment will determine the strength and length of our relationships. Share a time in your life where you have either loved deeply or been deeply loved. What did that look like? How can you improve the way you love? (Study: 1 Peter 4:8, Luke 7:36-50, Luke 15:11-24)
5. Final Thought: *Own The Greeting. Show Affection. Love Deeply*. Take a moment to pray for each others' relationships. This week, begin to take more responsibility for the way you interact with people. Follow these three simple ideas and watch God begin to work in your life.