



Lesson 5: Made for Relationships

Main Point

God created you for healthy relationships with him and others, and your relationship with God will also shape your relationships with others.

- To be righteous means to live in right relationships, with God, with others, and with all of creation.
- Reconciliation is the healing of broken relationships.

Scripture: Matthew 5:6-7 NLT

God blesses those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.
God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Exploring the Scripture:

- What does it mean to “hunger and thirst” for right relationships?
- How do you see people satisfying their craving for right relationships in unhealthy ways? What are the relationship equivalents of “junk food”?
- What does it mean to be merciful in relationships? Give examples.

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:17-19 NLT

Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people’s sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation.

Exploring the Scripture:

- What has God done for us through Jesus?
- What does it mean to “become a new person”? How does a relationship with God change someone?
- What is the connection between mercy and reconciliation?
- What does it mean that God gives us the task and message of reconciliation?

Applying It to My Life:

- Think about a tough relationship in your life. How can you practice being merciful in that situation? How could God bring healing through your mercy?
- Do you recognize any “red flags” in how you treat others? What steps do you need to take to repent and seek righteousness instead?

How to Read Scripture

Over the past few weeks, we have talked about prayer—how we speak to God. Now, we are shifting our focus to one of the main ways God speaks to us: through his Word.

A good rule to remember when reading Scripture is that before you can understand how it applies to your life, you must first understand it on its own terms. This starts with simple **observation**, which we will practice right now. In the coming weeks, we will move on to the next steps: interpretation and application.

Practice:

Read John 3:16-21, following these three steps:

- **Step 1:** Begin your time with prayer.
- **Step 2:** Read the passage silently, then aloud.
- **Step 3:** Observe what is going on in the text using the following questions:
 - Who, what, when, where?
 - How does this passage fit within the broader story or passage it is part of?
 - What is interesting or confusing?