



Relationships  
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**P**review

Have you ever thought you'd be really happy if you just had more money, a killer wardrobe, or your face plastered across every celebrity magazine in the nation? Think again. Complete fulfillment comes only through a solid relationship with God, which leads to healthier relationships with others.

*Have a round of "toilet paper confessions" to get to know each other better. Pass around a roll of TP. Everyone should tear off as many squares as needed to blow his nose. Now, inform the group that each person has to tell one fact about himself for every square he's torn off.*

**P**raise

Thank God for something that starts with the letter R.

**P**arable

It's been said that people are like snowflakes. Each one is unique and fragile, but when they all stick together, they can stop traffic. God created us to have healthy, positive relationships with others. However, He intends for our most intimate and fulfilling relationship to be with Him. Stick with God, and you'll see a whole avalanche of beautiful things happen in your life.

**P**resent

Read **Genesis 2:18**. God gave humans an inborn desire for good relationships, which is why arguing or being at odds with a parent, friend, teacher, or boyfriend/girlfriend can take such a toll on your emotions.

1. As a society, we tend to get so busy with school, homework, jobs, band, sports, choir—even church activities—that we don't make time to cultivate the relationships God has placed in our lives.
2. As a result, many suffer feelings of loneliness or feel there's no one to confide in when they're dealing with tough problems.
3. Out of all your relationships, your relationship with God is the most important.



Read **Deuteronomy 6:5** and **Matthew 22:37-39**. We are to treasure God like He's the very air we breathe.

1. In a 2007 interview with *Parade* magazine, celebrity Brad Pitt is quoted as saying that religion never worked for him because he couldn't understand the concept of God saying, "You have to acknowledge me. You have to say that I'm the best."
2. But God's desire for you to know Him is *not* an ego trip!
3. He loves you with an intensity you can't even begin to imagine.
4. He does want your devotion, but He also wants you to live life to the fullest, as well as experience the joy of heaven for all of eternity.

**James 2:23** refers to Abraham (the father of the Jews) as a friend of God.

1. Being a friend to someone requires interaction with them—talking to, listening to, and spending time with them.
2. Have you ever known someone who barely acknowledged you until they needed something? It's hard to have a good relationship with someone you know is just using you.
3. How do you think God feels when we talk to Him only when we're in trouble or about to fail a math quiz?
4. The amazing thing about being a friend of God is that whether you have a problem looming in the future or a crisis that seems to pop out of nowhere, He's as close as the mention of His name.
5. God will always hear a sincere prayer, but if you have an ongoing relationship with Him, asking for His help is far easier than if you only acknowledge Him when you're in trouble.

## **P** ractice

1. Read **Ecclesiastes 4:9-10**. What do you think this passage means?
2. What are the best ways to build strong relationships with the important people in your life?
3. What are the best ways to build a rock-solid relationship with God?

## **P** ray

Thank God for those He's placed in your life who invest in you and care about you. Thank Him for wanting to have a fulfilling, life-changing relationship with you.

## **P** lus



What is one thing you can do every day to strengthen your relationship with God? Pray more? Read the Bible? Get rid of something you know dishonors God? Write down your commitment. Next time the group meets, those who are comfortable may share the change they've made and how it's impacted their relationship with God.