



Part 4 – The Relational Gauge
September 24, 2023

How would you describe yourself relationally? Are you lonely, relationally overloaded, or both?

God designed us for relationships and modeled relationship for us.

- **Read Genesis 1:26, Matthew 3:16-17, and John 1:1-2.** How does God model relationship in these passages?
- **Read Genesis 2:18.** Adam had a relationship with his Creator, God. Isn't it amazing that He thought Adam also needed human relationship?
- **Read John 15:12-13.** Who has modeled sacrificial love to you, and what impact has it had?

Growth happens in the context of community.

- **Read Ephesians 4:15-16.** How has being part of a local congregation helped you mature in relationship with Christ?

Those close to you influence you.

- **Read Proverbs 12:26, Proverbs 18:24, and Proverbs 17:17.** Do you have too many very draining people (VDPs) and not enough very inspiring people (VIPs) in your life?
- Would those around you describe you as a VDP or VIP? How do you balance your relational needs with the needs of others?

Jesus modeled human relationships by 1) Loving all, 2) Training 120, 3) Discipling 12, and 4) Mentoring 3. How are you prioritizing time for those who matter most?

Shay listed six steps necessary to be a life-giving person. Which step do you do best? Where could you improve?

1. Ask questions and seek to understand
2. Speak life into people through encouragement
3. Bring joy to the relationship
4. Endure suffering and sadness with loved ones
5. Don't allow relationships to be one sided (issue of maturity and awareness)
6. Leave people better than when you found (bringing them closer to Christ, our Source of life)

Check your relational gauge this week by asking God to reveal areas where you need to improve. Then, in humility, take the steps to do something about what God reveals. Remember, God desires to be in intimate relationship with you, and restoration is one humble conversation away with a loving, merciful God.