



RELATIONAL VALUES

Authentic Connection

The D-Cycle is a curriculum containing content designed to establish the scriptural foundations of the faith in the life of a believer.

VISION FOR AUTHENTIC CONNECTION

We were created for relationship with God and others. Through our loving relationship with our Heavenly Father, we receive our true identity which transforms our connections with our neighbors. Authentic connection is vulnerable as we resist our fleshly preferences of domination and passivity to lovingly engage with our neighbors. This connection will include pursuing conflict, remembering our identity as team players, and clear and timely communication.

Key Definitions

- **Authentic Connection:** allowing the character, nature, and life of Jesus, that reflects the Father's love; to transform the way we view and treat others around us.

HEAD

Summary of Points

1. **Fearlessly Pursue Healthy Conflict**
 - a. Jesus instructs us on how to handle conflict within the Body. Bring it to the person, bring in one or two people, bring in someone who has authority in the church.
 - b. **Practical Wisdom:** When someone says something to you and your heart is hurt or you feel the urge to lash out towards them, stop and ask the Holy Spirit to counsel you to see things clearly from his perspective. After returning to peace, approach that person and communicate clearly that you would like to discuss the incident. Describe clearly what happened by using "I" statements (I felt hurt when you said "XYZ"). Wait for their response. Extend forgiveness.
 - c. Assume the best of one another.
2. **Are Team Players**
 - a. We are the body of Christ made up of many parts.
 - b. When we operate in our giftings we get to authentically connect with the body and Jesus.
 - c. When we maintain unity in the body, we align with how and who God made us to be - team players.
 - d. When we realize that we are all on the same team, we clearly see that we only have one enemy - the devil.

3. Communicate Clearly in a Timely Manner

- a. When we communicate in a timely manner, we are able to connect in a truthful way rather than giving people areas for assumptions.

Practical Wisdom: When you text someone that you are 5 minutes from getting there to pick them up for carpool and it's really 15 minutes, we are not connecting with others authentically.

- b. Clear communication is both verbal and non-verbal.
- c. Conversation practicals include: smiling when you agree, making eye contact, showing interest in others interests, responding with follow up questions, or simply asking "how are you today"

Lifegroup Scriptures

The Church as The Body

1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Healthy Conflict in the Church

Matthew 18:15-20

D-Group Scriptures

Speaking the Truth in Love

Ephesians 4:15-16

Jesus Rebukes Peter

Matthew 16:13-28

The New Self

Colossians 3:12-17

Romans 12:15

2 Corinthians 13:11

Divisions in the Church

1 Corinthians 3

Discussion Methods

Below are two suggested methods for discussing Scripture.

Traditional DBS New Testament Letters	Inductive Bible Study Gospels, Acts, Old Testament Accounts
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What does this say about God?2. What does this say about me/people?3. What is my obedient response?	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Observation – What happened?2. Interpretation – What does it mean?3. Application – How can I obey?

HEART

Questions

1. Is it easy or hard to authentically connect with those in your sphere of influence using the three ways discussed as reference (Fearlessly Pursue Healthy Conflict, Are Team Players, Communicate Clearly in a Timely Manner)? Where do you already do this and where can you take a step to connect authentically?
2. How do we pursue healthy conflict based on what we talked about?
3. Have you been able to view yourself as a part of the larger body of Christ before today? What role do you play?
4. How can you implement communicating in a timely manner?

Lifegroup content ends here

HANDS

Discipleship Actions

Pick which area you need to apply most:

1. **Fearlessly Pursue Healthy Conflict:**
 - Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you who you need to address conflict with.
 - Make a plan of how to do this.
2. **Are Team Players:** Reflect on your role at your local church/lifegroup.
 - Take a moment to write out giftings and spiritual gifts you have been given by the Lord
 - Ask yourself if you are serving the body using your giftings.
3. **Communicate Clearly in a Timely Manner**
 - Where have you not communicated clearly or timely?
 - Ask the Holy Spirit to help you identify the root cause of poor communication.