



INTRODUCTION

Dale Carnegie, author of 'How to win friends and influence people', once said: *"You can make more friends in two months by becoming interested in other people than you can in two years by trying to get other people interested in you."*

Jesus longs for us to experience true community with others. Even from the very beginning God declared that it was not good for us to be alone. During this series we will look at what the Bible says about how to have great relationships, whether it be in the workplace, our families, social media, our friendship circles or the church.

KEY BIBLE PASSAGES

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

ROMANS 5:1-2

We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please our neighbours for their good, to build them up.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:11

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

EPHESIANS 4:15

Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

QUESTION 1

When the Apostle Paul writes to the church at Corinth, he says: *“love is kind” (1 Cor 13:4)*. Given that social media is a place where people often lose their filter and become more blunt, what steps can we take as Christians to make sure our words are kind when engaging online?

QUESTION 2

The Apostle Paul goes on to say that love *“does not envy” (1 Cor 13:4)*. Why do you think jealousy or envy works against love? Doesn't comparing ourselves to others sometimes motivate us to work harder in life? Is envy really so bad? What are your thoughts?

QUESTION 3

In his letter to the church at Rome, the Apostle Paul says: *“We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please our neighbours for their good, to build them up.” (Romans 5:1-2)*.

Whilst this makes sense, it can also be very difficult. Some people are exhausting. Others have a victim mentality. Some people will cling to us the moment we show the slightest interest in helping them. In light of this, how can we apply this passage? Do you just allow those who are perpetually victims to take advantage of us? Or do we have to set boundaries?

QUESTION 4

1 Thessalonians 4:15 says: *“Encourage one another and build each other up”*. Often in life we fail to take the time to encourage others. If you are willing, go around the group and share a story of how one person's encouragement significantly impacted your life. If you have time, you might like to send them a text or a letter to thank them for what they've done for you.