

Relationship Rehab 1

TALK IT OVER

Key Scriptures

Ecclesiastes 10:10 (NLT)
Using a dull ax requires great strength, so sharpen the blade. That's the value of wisdom; it helps you succeed.

Proverbs 24:30-34 I went by the field of the lazy man, And by the vineyard of the man devoid of understanding;³¹ And there it was, all overgrown with thorns; Its surface was covered with nettles; Its stone wall was broken down.³² When I saw it, I considered it well; I looked on it and received instruction:³³ A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to rest;³⁴ So shall your poverty come like a prowler, And your need like an armed man.

Matthew 7:1-5 "Do not judge so that you will not be judged.² For by the standard you judge you will be judged, and the measure you use will be the measure you receive.³ Why do you see the speck in your brother's eye, but fail to see the beam of wood in your own?⁴ Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye,' while there is a beam in your own?⁵ You hypocrite! First remove the beam from your own eye, and then you can see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

Key Point: Every good relationship is a relationship that has received hard work and attention.

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- Have you ever had something in your eye that you could not remove? What did you do?

Start thinking. Ask questions to get your group thinking.

- What do you think Ecclesiastes 10:10 is talking about?
- Is Jesus telling us we shouldn't judge other people in Matt 7:1? (see John 7:24, Romans 2:1-3)
- How would you explain or define what the speck/log is in Jesus' illustration in Matt 7?
- Kyle shared that he thought removing the speck and a log require needed things in relationships; **approachability, confession, repentance, encouragement,** and **forgiveness.** Can you think of other things we need to get past the log in our own eye, and to help with the speck in the eye of our neighbor/friend/spouse?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- If we apply Proverbs 24 as a picture of a marriage that hasn't been well maintained, what do you think it is that causes us to neglect areas of our relationships/marriages?
- For those of you who spend time praying regularly with your spouse, what do you think it does for our relationship with each other?
- If you genuinely want to help someone with a problem they have that is hurting them, in what way should you approach them? In what ways have people successfully or unsuccessfully approached you about something?

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week!

- If you are married, make a commitment Pray out loud together on a regular basis with your spouse. If you are single, set a time each day when you will pray out loud to the Lord.

Prayer Requests. It may be helpful to pray the scriptures back to God.

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