



## IT'S ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS

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### INTRO COMMENTS

Where do we put our energy in this life? Where is the biggest bang for the buck?

*One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.<sup>1a</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'<sup>1a</sup> All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."*  
*Matthew 22:35-40*

### TRANSLATION: GO ALL IN FOR RELATIONSHIPS

**risk:** *the possibility that something bad or unpleasant will happen as opposed to what is hoped for happening*

### GETTING GOD'S MIND ON THE KEY RELATIONSHIP

*"For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it." Mark 8:35 NIV*

*“But my righteous one will live by faith. And I take no pleasure in the one who shrinks back. But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved.” Hebrews 10:38-39 NIV*

TWO FACTS:

**QUALITY** OF RELATIONSHIPS = **RISKS** TAKEN FOR RELATIONSHIPS.

**RISKING** FOR RELATIONSHIP ASSIGNS **MEANING** TO THE RELATIONSHIP

## RISKS REQUIRED FOR GREAT RELATIONSHIPS

### RISK OF INITIATING

*“This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.” 1 John 4:10*

*“He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.” John 1:11-12*

APPLY: I MUST RISK ANOTHER’S RESPONSE

### RISK OF KNOWING

*This is what the LORD says: “Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me; that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,” declares the LORD.*

*Jeremiah 9:23-24*

*“Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.” John 17:3*

*“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.”*

*1 John 1:8-10 NIV*

APPLY: I MUST RISK TRANSPARENCY

## **RISK OF GROWING**

*“And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.” Colossians 2:6-7*

*“Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” Philippians 1:6*

*“Sow righteousness for yourselves, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to seek the LORD.”*

*HOSEA 10:12*

APPLY: I MUST RISK BEING MADE NEW

## **RISK OF SUPPORTING**

*“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” Matthew 11:28-29*

*“I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand.” Psalm 40:1-2*

APPLY: I MUST RISK DEPENDING

## **RISK OF SACRIFICING**

*“Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”*

*John 15:13*

*Then he said to the crowd, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me."*

*Luke 9:23*

*"And if you do not carry your own cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple. But don't begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it? Otherwise, you might complete only the foundation before running out of money, and then everyone would laugh at you." Luke 14:27-29*

### **APPLY: I MUST RISK COMMITTING**

**WHY RISK AN INITIAL AND ONGOING PURSUIT HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS WITH GOD & PEOPLE?**

### **I START EXPERIENCING TRUE ACCEPTANCE FROM GOD**

*"May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God." Romans 15:5-7*

### **I START OFFERING MEANINGFUL ACCEPTANCE TO OTHERS**

*"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God." I John 4:7*

*CLOSING PRAYER*

**SLIDE FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS**

**TRANSFORMED CURRICULUM**

**LIVING LARGE CURRICULUM**