

The Four Priorities Chapter 14

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Facilitator Guide by Reclamation Church

Chapter 14: Social Assets – You and Your Relationships

Note: The timelines below are only a guide, as well as the questions to ask. Make this your own and go where the Holy Spirit leads you. Take your time and, when needed, break this chapter into several meetings.

**Open
(10 min.)**

Spend a few minutes each week catching up with one another, then share prayer requests.

Do: Open in prayer.

**Recap
(5 min.)**

Briefly give a summary of your meeting last week.

- We discussed symptoms of depression and how God provided healing for Elijah.
- We also spent time reading about Elijah, other prophets, and the need for them to rely on God since many prophets lost their lives being the bearers of God's bad news.

Ask: What did you think about differently this past week regarding how God sees our emotional condition and cares about healing us? *(Consider sharing some of your own thoughts.)*

**Discuss
(10 min.)**

Ask:

- How would you describe your ability to build strong relationships with others? Explain. *(share)*
 - How would you describe your ability to mend/repair broken relationships? Explain. *(share)*
 - If you have been successful with reconciliation, share some helpful steps of your process. *(share)*
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Barriers to healthy relationships, (15 min.)

Say: Based on the chapter (starting on page 137), let's discuss how we have seen or experienced the **barriers** to having close, positive relationships. These behaviors can sabotage our relationships):

- Hidden Feelings – shallow relationships
- Resentments – relationships can become toxic, due to:
 - One-sided commitment
 - Competition/envy
 - Verbal Betrayal – sharing personal information with others
 - Mocking/put-downs
 - Smothering – not setting boundaries
- Risky behavior (including illegal or addictive behavior or substances)
- Changes in Life – aging, health,
- Anything you would add that can be a barrier to having close relationships?

Building Strong Relationships: Network, (45 min-2hrs.)

Say: Having a strong network of acquaintances and close friends keeps us connected and prevents isolation. There are times when we need to take turns leaning on and supporting one another.

Ask: What did you find helpful about the Network chain, which describes how people are connected to one another, on pages 141-145? (Discuss each of the 4 critical links – info below)

- Anchor – This person is trustworthy and can give advice that is wise, insightful, savvy, and experienced.
Ask: Can you identify someone in your network in this role?
- Broker – This type of person helps to drive a thing forward by using their connections to assist. They typically have knowledge, equity, and yearning to help.
Ask: Can you identify someone in your network in this role?
- Connector – This person has depth, knowledge, good ideas, and typically likes to link (connect) people together.
Ask: Can you identify someone in your network in this role?
- Doer – This person is typically a get-the-job-done kind of person and is typically talented, available, and productive.
Ask: Can you identify someone in your network in this role?

Take Action
(30 min.)

Read through and discuss the questions at the end of the chapter.

Next week, we'll move on to Priority 3, *A Personal, Progressive Commitment to Relationships*, starting with Marriage and how to make it sizzle.

(Note to leader: If you have a single or widowed person you are discipling, review **Chapters 15-19** in advance to see if there are applicable pieces of information to incorporate into your discussion. These chapters address marriage and parenting. Based on what you know about the person you are discipling, you might skip some of these chapters.

However, the title of the chapters might lead you to believe there isn't anything pertinent there for you. You might be very wrong. Some important topics of communication with significant people in your life might be applicable!)

Close
(5 min.)

Homework: Read Chapter 15 (and referenced scriptures in the Bible) and come prepared with questions you might have from this chapter, as well as completing the end-of-chapter questions.

Close in prayer.