

The Four Priorities

Priority 3: A Personal, Progressive Commitment to Relationships

Book by John Tolson

Facilitator Guide by Reclamation Church

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.

**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 barriers to healthy and effective communication. It is important to be aware of these barriers, avoid them, and discuss them as they arise within relationships.
- We talked about the importance of having a network of friends as a necessary part of our relationships.

Ask: What did you think about differently this past week regarding the importance of relationships, removing barriers, and having a friend network? (Consider sharing some of your own thoughts.)

**Discuss
(15 min.)**

Ask:

- Is it possible that we portray ourselves differently to different people in our lives? If so, why is that the case? (share)
 - How would *you* describe yourself, including your strengths and flaws? (share)
 - How would your *close family* describe you, including your strengths and flaws, knowing that they see “the real you?” (share)
 - How would your *friends or acquaintances* describe you, including your strengths and flaws? (share)
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RECLAMATION
— CHURCH —

**Quote
(5 min.)**

Read the Ann Voskamp quote on page 149 (not numbered).

Ask:

- How does this quote compare to what Paul writes in 2 Timothy 4:1-8?
- How do you want your life to “spill out?” (*share*)

Say: No matter our age, we can keep our focus on the matters of the Gospel, the teachings of Christ, and upon his return.

**Paragraphs
(30 min)**

Do: Read the next two paragraphs, including reading 1 Corinthians 12:12-26.

Discuss the following questions:

- What do you think *holds people back* from becoming a “better” (sacrificial) spouse, parent, friend, or member of the church family?
- How can you take steps to become better in one of these categories?
- As you read about Jim Smith, what were some of his characteristics that you admired?
- How do some of Jim Smith’s characteristics compare to what Jesus says in Matthew 20:25-28 and John 13:1-17?
- Why do you think some men (and women) find these characteristics weak? How do God’s ways run contrary to the world’s ways?

**Close
(5 min.)**

Homework:

1. Write a short legacy/eulogy of how you want the end of your life to read.
2. 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.

Note: We encourage you *not* to skip Ch 15-16, even if the one you disciple is not married. There are very applicable general relationship issues that can be helpful to discuss in these chapters. Additionally, chapters 17-19 should be discussed, even if the one you disciple is not a parent. Discussing these chapters from your own childhood experiences can be healing.

Close in prayer.