



Part Three: Relationships: Broken but Essential

BLESS Rhythms – Bless, Listen, Eat, Speak, Sabbath

Opening question

1. Are there people God brought into your life at a crucial time? Who? How did God use them?

2. Have you ever been that person? Share about that.

Going Deeper Questions

1. *Romans 3:9-10 (The Message) "Basically, all of us, whether insiders or outsiders, start out in identical conditions, which is to say that we all start out as sinners. Scripture leaves no doubt about it: There's nobody living right, not even one, nobody who knows the score, nobody alert for God. They've all taken the wrong turn; they've all wandered down blind alleys. No one's living right; I can't find a single one."* How does this passage help us in our relationship building?

2. What prevents you from being open about your brokenness?

3. Read I John 1:5-7. What does this passage say about relationships (fellowship)?

4. Read Matthew 11:28. In the song 'O Holy Night', it says 'the weary world rejoices'. How do we go from weariness to joy? What do you do with your weariness? What is rest?

5. Sid quoted, 'We are made **by** relationship and **for** relationship.' What does this mean? Do you agree? How does being an image bearer of God play into all of this?

6. Adam and Eve, in response to their brokenness, hid. How come we as humans have such a tendency to hide? In what ways do we hide?

7. Read I John 1 again. How is this a description of health instead of hiding and isolation?

8. What is the key thought in these verses? Which one appeals to you the most? Why? Which one intimidates you the most? Why?

...Be at peace with each other." (Mark 9:50) "...Wash one another's feet." (John 13:14) "...Love one another..." "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love..." (Romans 12:10) "...Honor one another above yourselves. (Romans 12:10) "Live in harmony with one another..." (Romans 12:16) "...Stop passing judgment on one another." (Romans 14:13) "Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you..." (Romans 15:7). "...Instruct one another." (Romans 15:14) "...Serve one another in love." (Galatians 5:13) "If you keep on biting and devouring each other...you will be destroyed by each other." (Galatians 5:15) "Carry each other's burdens..." (Galatians 6:2) "...Be patient, bearing with one another in love." (Ephesians 4:2) "Be kind and compassionate to one another..." (Ephesians 4:32) "...Forgiving each other..." (Ephesians 4:32) "...Encourage each other..." (I Thessalonians 4:18) "...Build each other up..." (I Thessalonians 5:11) "...Spur one another on toward love and good deeds." (Hebrews 10:24) "Confess your sins to each other..." (James 5:16) "...Pray for each other." (James 5:16) "Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling." (I Peter 4: "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others..." (I Peter 4:10)

9. Read Proverbs 17:17. What do you think is the key word in this passage? What makes this passage so beautiful and so challenging?

10. Read James 1:19. Why is this great relationship advice? Why is this so hard?