RELATION SHOWS

OVERVIEW:

Our Thriving in Relationships series encompasses various topics relevant to students' lives today. Throughout these next 6 weeks, we will focus on the power of authentic friendships, emphasizing the qualities of true friends and the importance of genuine connections. We will address the need to recognize and break free from negative relationships, highlighting the dangers of people-pleasing and setting healthy boundaries. Then we will dive deep into the complexities of family relationships, exploring the importance of honoring parents and resolving conflicts. We will then continue to explore the navigation of worldly authority, guiding students on how to honor God while respecting and obeying those in positions of authority. We then want to discuss the importance of quarding hearts and preserving purity in romantic relationships, emphasizing God's design and standards for love and sex. Lastly, we tackle the challenges of dating in a hookup culture, providing biblical principles for healthy relationships and highlighting the importance of genuine love and compatibility. Through these messages, students will gain practical wisdom and biblical guidance to navigate various aspects of life, relationships, and faith so that all of them can be Thriving in Relationships.

WEEK ONE:

Ride or Die: The Power of Authentic Friendships

Scripture: Proverbs 17:17; Ecclesiastes 4:9-10; John 15:13; Romans 12:10

In this message, we will explore the significance of authentic friendships in the digital age were acquaintance can be disguised as authentic. We will discuss the qualities of true friends, the impact they have on our lives and future, and the importance of genuine connections. Drawing from Proverbs and Ecclesiastes, we will discover the value of loyal companionship and the power of having someone by our side through life's ups and downs. We will also look to the example of Jesus, who demonstrated the ultimate form of love by laying down His life for us His friends. Romans 12:10 will guide us in understanding the call to love one another with deep affection, honoring others above ourselves.



- 1. Think about people in your life who exemplify an authentic friend. What qualities or characteristics do they possess that make them stand out? How has their friendship impacted you?
- 2. Reflect on the example of Jesus laying down His life for His friends. How does His sacrificial love challenge and inspire us to be better friends to others? How can we apply His example to our friendships?
- 3. Read Proverbs 17:17 and Ecclesiastes 4:9-10. These passages highlight the value of loyal companionship and having someone by our side. What does a loyal friend mean to you in difficult seasons? How does loyalty make a difference?
- 4. Romans 12:10 calls us to love one another with deep affection and to honor others above ourselves. In the context of friendships, what does it look like to honor and value others above ourselves? Share practical ways we can demonstrate this kind of love in our everyday interactions with friends.
- 5. In today's digital age, where social media often presents a superficial image of friendship, how can we cultivate authentic friendships in our lives? Share ideas or strategies to build deeper connections and meaningful relationships with others, both online and offline.

WEEK TWO:

Toxic Trendsetters:

Recognizing and Breaking Free from Negative Relationships

Scripture: Proverbs 13:20; 1 Corinthians 15:33; Psalm 1:1-2; Romans 12:2

This message will focus on identifying and addressing negative influences in our lives. Especially in an age were sometimes we can get so focused on being liked that we sacrifice our values and relationship with Christ to please others. We will explore how to recognize toxic relationships, the dangers of people pleasing, and the importance of setting healthy boundaries. Proverbs 13:20 will remind us of the impact our relationships have on our character and choices. 1 Corinthians 15:33 will emphasize the need for wise companions who encourage us in our faith. By turning to Psalm 1:1-2, we will see the importance of delighting in God's Word and avoiding the counsel of the wicked. Romans 12:2 will guide us in transforming our minds to discern what is good and pleasing to God.



- Share a time when you have felt the pressure to conform to negative influences in order to be liked or accepted by others. How did that impact your relationship with Christ and your personal values?
- 2. Proverbs 13:20 states that "whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm." How does this verse encourage us to choose our relationships wisely? What are some qualities to look for in friends who encourage and strengthen our faith?
- Reflect on the dangers of people-pleasing mentioned in the overview. How does the desire to be liked or accepted sometimes lead us to compromise our values and neglect our relationship with Christ? Share any personal experiences or observations.
- 4. Psalm 1:1-2 describes the blessings of delighting in God's Word and avoiding the counsel of the wicked. How can immersing ourselves in Scripture help us recognize and break free from negative relationships or influences? Share examples of how God's Word can guide and protect us in making wise choices.
- 5. Romans 12:2 urges us not to conform to the patterns of this world but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. How can we practically apply this verse to discern what is good and pleasing to God when it comes to the relationships we form? Share specific ways we can set healthy boundaries and make intentional choices to surround ourselves with positive influences.

WEEK THREE:

Family Matters:

Honoring and Navigating Relationships at Home

Scripture: Ephesians 6:1-3; Colossians 3:20; Proverbs 6:20-22; Matthew 19:19

In this message, we will dive into the complexities of family relationships and dynamics. We will discuss honoring parents and siblings, resolving conflicts, and fostering healthy communication within the family unit. Ephesians 6:1-3 will highlight the command to honor our parents and the promise of a long and satisfying life. Colossians 3:20 will remind us of the importance of obeying our parents, for it pleases the Lord. Proverbs 6:20-22 will encourage us to hold onto the teachings of our parents as a guide for life. Additionally, we will look to Matthew 19:19, where Jesus emphasizes the command to honor our fathers and mothers. We want students to know and understand that Relationships with parents and family is essential to our walk with the lord.



- Share a positive experience or memory you have had with your parents or siblings. How did that experience contribute to your relationship with them and your understanding of the importance of family?
- 2. Ephesians 6:1-3 commands us to honor our parents. What does honoring our parents mean to you? How can we practically show honor and respect to our parents in our daily lives?
- 3. Reflect on the challenges that can arise within family relationships, such as conflicts or disagreements. How can we approach conflicts in a way that promotes understanding, reconciliation, and growth within our families?
- 4. Colossians 3:20 emphasizes the importance of obeying our parents, for it pleases the Lord. Share a time when obeying your parents led to positive outcomes or blessings in your life. How does obedience to our parents align with our obedience to God?
- 5. Proverbs 6:20-22 encourages us to hold onto the teachings of our parents. How have the teachings or wisdom passed down by your parents influenced your decision-making and choices? Share an example of how their guidance has impacted your life.

WEEK FOUR:

Navigating Worldly Authority: Honoring God in a Complex World

Scripture: Romans 13:1-2; Acts 5:29; Matthew 22:21; Titus 3:1

In this message, we will jump into the topic of navigating worldly authority beyond the realm of family relationships. We will explore the complexities of authority structures, including government, bosses, teachers, and other figures of authority in our lives. Through these biblical passages, we will gain insights on how to honor God while respecting and obeying worldly authority. Romans 13:1-2 will remind us of the importance of submitting to governing authorities, recognizing their role as established by God. At the same time, Acts 5:29 will guide us in understanding the principle of obeying God rather than human authority when there is a conflict of values. Matthew 22:21 will emphasize the call to give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God. Titus 3:1 will further encourage us to be subject to rulers and authorities, ready to do what is good.

Throughout this message, we will explore practical examples and engage in discussions on how to maintain our Christian values and integrity while navigating the demands and expectations of worldly authority. The goal is to equip students with wisdom and discernment in honoring both God and those in positions of authority, cultivating a Christ-centered approach to their responsibilities in a complex world.



- Share a time when you faced a conflict between obeying God and obeying a worldly authority figure. How did you handle the situation? What lessons did you learn from it?
- 2. Romans 13:1-2 emphasizes the importance of submitting to governing authorities. What are some reasons why it is important for Christians to obey the laws and regulations set by the government? How can our obedience to worldly authorities reflect our obedience to God?
- 3. Acts 5:29 teaches us the principle of obeying God rather than human authority when there is a conflict of values. Can you think of a biblical example or a reallife scenario where this principle is applied? How can we discern when it is appropriate to prioritize God's commands over worldly authority?
- 4. Matthew 22:21 reminds us to give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God. What does this verse teach us about balancing our responsibilities to both God and worldly authorities? How can we ensure that our allegiance to God remains unwavering amidst the demands of worldly authority?
- 5. Titus 3:1 encourages us to be subject to rulers and authorities, ready to do what is good. How can we actively live out this instruction in our daily lives, even when faced with challenging or unjust situations? Share practical ways we can demonstrate respect and honor towards those in positions of authority while remaining faithful to our commitment to God.

WEEK FIVE:

Guarding Hearts, Preserving Purity: Navigating Romantic Relationships

Scripture: 1 Timothy 4:12; Song of Solomon 2:7; 1 Corinthians 6:18-20; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5

In this message, we will discuss the importance of guarding our hearts and preserving purity in romantic relationships. We will explore God's design for love and sex, the value of self-worth, and the blessings of waiting for the right person.

1 Timothy 4:12 will encourage us to set an example in purity, demonstrating God's standards in our relationships. Drawing from Song of Solomon, we will discover the beauty of God's plan for romantic love. 1 Corinthians 6:18-20 will guide us in understanding the importance of sexual purity as our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit. Finally, we will turn to 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5, which emphasizes God's will for our sanctification and abstaining from sexual immorality. The heart of this is that Purity is a design to choose God and his will and way for us to live that glorifies him and makes him more important than our earthly desires.



- 1. How could disregarding God's design for love and purity in a romantic relationship impact your understanding of the importance of guarding our hearts?
- 2. 1 Timothy 4:12 encourages us to set an example in purity. In what ways can we demonstrate this example to others, both within and outside of romantic relationships? How can our commitment to purity influence and inspire those around us?
- 3. Reflect on the culture and media portrayals of relationships and sex. How do these influences shape our perspectives and expectations? How can we guard ourselves against negative influences and align our mindset with God's truth?
- 4. Discuss the challenges and pressures young people face when it comes to preserving purity in todays society. How can we support and encourage one another in making choices that honor God and protect our hearts? Share practical tips for navigating these challenges together.
- 5. 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 speaks about God's will for our sanctification and abstaining from sexual immorality. How can we cultivate a lifestyle of holiness and purity, not just in our romantic relationships, but in all areas of our lives? Share personal strategies or habits that have helped you stay aligned with God's will in this regard.

WEEK SIX:

Swipe Right: Building Healthy Dating Relationships in a Hookup Culture

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 6:14; Proverbs 19:14; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7;

Romans 12:9

In the final message of the series, we will address the challenges of dating in a fluent relationship culture. We will discuss biblical principles for dating, the qualities to look for in a potential partner, and how to build healthy relationships in a world driven by instant gratification. 2 Corinthians 6:14 will remind us of the importance of being equally yoked with believers. Proverbs 19:14 will highlight the blessing of finding a spouse from the Lord. Through 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, we will explore the characteristics of love and how they apply to dating relationships. Finally, Romans 12:9 will encourage us to love genuinely, hating what is evil and holding fast to what is good. Dating is not something scripture talks directly about because scripture prioritizes the intent of a male and female romantic relationship is to lead to marriage which glorifies and reflects Christ and the church.



- 1. Reflect on 2 Corinthians 6:14, which emphasizes the importance of being equally yoked with believers in our dating relationships. Why do you think this principle is crucial for building a healthy and Godhonoring relationship? Share any personal experiences or observations related to this.
- 2. Proverbs 19:14 speaks of finding a spouse as a blessing from the Lord. How does this verse shape our perspective on the purpose and significance of dating? How can we trust God's timing and guidance in our pursuit of a potential partner?
- 3. Explore the characteristics of love described in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. How can we apply these qualities to our dating relationships? Share examples of how demonstrating love, patience, kindness, and forgiveness can positively impact the dynamics of a dating relationship.
- 4. Romans 12:9 encourages us to love genuinely, hating what is evil and holding fast to what is good. In a culture driven by instant gratification and self-centeredness, how can we cultivate genuine love and prioritize what is good in our dating relationships? Discuss practical ways to guard against the negative influences of the hookup culture.
- 5. Discuss the ultimate goal of dating according to Scripture, which is to glorify and reflect Christ and the church through marriage. How does this perspective shape our intentions, choices, and behaviors in our dating relationships? Share your thoughts on how to keep this perspective at the forefront when navigating the dating landscape.

BONUS MATERIAL:

Week 1: Good Friends

https://axis.org/resource/friendship-conversation-kit/ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yVtgKY3DE8Y https://www.bible.com/search/plans?query=friends

Week 2: Bad Friends

https://axis.org/resource/friendship-parent-guide/ https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/26056-friendship

Week 3:Parent Authority and Relationship

https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/24002-honor-your-parents

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mVn7zw_Dj3s

Week 4:Worldly Authority

https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/content/details/258094 https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/content/details/152287

Week 5: Romantic Relationships

https://axis.org/resource/purity-parent-guide/ https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/content/ details/478078 https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=fSBjbsUnmk0

Week 6: Healthy Dating

https://axis.org/resource/dating/ https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/content/ details/491847



