

## Talk It Over

## Relationship Goals (Week 1) Christ Centered

### SMALL TALK

1. What is the funniest thing you have fought about with a loved one?
2. Name a couple whose relationship you want your current or future relationship to look more like. Why them?

### VIEWPOINT

3. **READ Matthew 22:36-39.** Describe the concept of a Christ Centered life, what it looks like, and how it defines and shapes you. Then contrast that with a life with anything else at the center.
4. **READ 2 Corinthians 10:12.** What is dangerous about comparing your relationship with another "better" relationship?
5. Have someone who heard Sunday's message describe "the myth of the one." Why is it believed, and what is dangerous about this myth?

### GETTING PERSONAL

6. If a stranger found your calendar and budget for this week, what would they think your life is centered around?
7. What do you think keeps couples from praying together every day?
8. Based on the circles diagram, what would you say your life has been centered around in the last seven days?
9. On a scale of 1 – 10, where would you rank your prayer life this past week?

### MAKING PROGRESS

10. One of our core statements is: "Love God Wholeheartedly." What's something simple you are ready to do to put Jesus at the center of your life?

February 9, 2020

## RELATIONSHIP GOALS

Week 1 – Christ Centered

*Genesis 2:18 (NIV) The LORD God said, “It is **not good** for the man **to be alone**. I will make a helper suitable for him.” ...*

God made us for relationships. We were never designed to function alone. God says this “It is NOT GOOD for a human being to be alone” was stated before there was any sin. By design we have been created as relational beings! I did not say, by design you need to be married.

You do not need another person to complete you.

Jesus came to make you whole as an individual.

Single is a whole number.

Jesus lived a whole and full life without a wife.

So, if you are single, these relationship goals will need to be viewed through your lens as a single person. If you are married, you will need to view these goals through the lens as a married person.

I am a married person. I’ve been married to only one woman, and I’ve been married longer than I’ve been single, so I will be speaking a lot from that vantage point, but SINGLES, these relationship goals are for you in your relationships as well.

The Series: RELATIONSHIP GOALS

- Christ Centered
- Kingdom Living
- Devil Kicking

- Covenant Keeping

Single or married our relationships are better with these 4 goals.

[PICTURE] For those of you who do not know her, meet Gina, I've known her for over 40 years. She's been my best friend for 39 years, and we are just 3 months from our 37 year anniversary.

They say a picture is worth a thousand words, but a picture is only one frozen moment in much larger story.

Although my relationship with Gina is sweeter and deeper now than ever before, this side of heaven, no relationship is an endless string of happily ever after pretty pictures. Even the great lasting relationships are filled with pictures that aren't pretty.

We are both competitive, and in the early years it was quite an adjustment figuring out how to communicate. I can't tell you how many times I said and did stupid things. Do you know what is really stupid? Stupid is when you do or say anything you know better than to do or say—I mean deeply hurtful and painful things. The truth is that the not so pretty parts were not due to sheer youthful ignorance.

I'm not a "mistaker" in need of a life coach;  
I'm a sinner in need of a savior.

Here's what I want to say to you wherever you are coming from. Jesus can make your life whole and blessed! Life is good. Jesus can make your marriage whole, blessed, and complete also. He can bring more "Pretty Picture" moments and string them together in ways that shine well and make his Name's reputation shine! Jesus makes all the difference. Jesus is the reason our relationship is sweeter and deeper on year 37 than on year 3, or 7.

## I. **When your LIFE is painful, do not compare it with a MIRAGE**

If you are Married. When your marriage is painful, don't compare it with a MIRAGE.

A MIRAGE is someone else's pretty picture. There is a broken not so pretty picture behind their pretty pictures too. Comparisons never work, and chasing a mirage never works.

Singles, When your life is painful, don't compare it with a mirage! What do I mean by stop chasing a mirage?

*2 Corinthians 10:12 (NIV) We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise.*

Don't compare yourself with a happily married person. Some singles want to be married so badly they keep chasing an illusive and ideal mirage that disappears in front of them no matter what they do to get closer.

## II. **Don't fall for the myth of the ONE**

Here's the MYTH. If only I could find "the right ONE."

Girl meets a guy and he's "kind of cute", and he opens up the car for her, and gets the door, and she's like, "I think I've met the one!"

"He's so amazing, I mean, this guy, like, he went to church one time back in the '80s", "and he has a job..." and my last three boyfriends were unemployed "and wanted to be professional video game players, "but this guy has a job from nine to five. "I think I met the one!"

Be careful. You are chasing a mirage.

Here's another problem. You find "the ONE" and you get married, then what happens when "the One" didn't make your life whole. With the myth firmly in place, you begin thinking you married the wrong "ONE". That's a problem.

This is the Myth of the ONE. If I find the right ONE, then everything will be amazing! Because to be really happy and fulfilled in life, you have to find the one. Mr. or Mrs. Right. The perfect one, the "Soul mate" the match made in heaven. You think that, "the One" will make your life all warm and fuzzy and always make you feel the feelings of being "in love." It will be just like all those love songs on the radio describe. There is a problem here. Love is more than a feeling. Love is not just a noun. It is also a verb, an action even when there are no warm fuzzy feelings.

<p>You can't build your life around a soft feeling center. That's a Twinkie, not a life.</p>
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That's a Twinkie, not a marriage. You need a more substantial center. There is something better than feelings for the center of your life. There is something better than feelings for the center of your life, something more substantial that when in place actually feels better even though it isn't feelings centered or feelings focused.

### III. **Jesus is the ONE.**

*Matthew 22:36-39 (NIV) {36} "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" {37} Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' {38} This is the **first** and greatest commandment. {39} And the **second** is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'*

*John 14:6 (NIV) Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth*

*and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

If you believe the Myth of the one, Christ is no longer the one centering your life. You are busy trying to fix what is broken with the wrong ONE.

The reason the myth does not work is that when you make the wrong one THE ONE you are asking someone to do something they cannot deliver. That person cannot be the one to make your life feel whole! Besides the fact that that is a lot of pressure on anyone, it is a lie, and it is impossible. There is only ONE who can make your life whole.

**Center Your Life On Jesus Christ! He's the only fixation that fixes.**

Something will be your CENTER. That is how we have been designed. What is your Center?

What does it mean to be Christ-centered in our lives? Good question, but let's back up first. We need to understand that no matter who we are, no matter what our relational status is, our lives are centered around something.



What's your center? SELF?  
MARRIAGE? CHILDREN?  
WORK? MONEY? THE THINGS  
MONEY CAN BUY?

Whatever is the CENTER of your life will define and shape who you are? It will shape your values and beliefs, your actions and decisions, your influence and your impact.

You might present your SELF well, and it looks like a pretty picture on the outside, but inside it's not a pretty picture and you know it, if any of these other centers have become your CENTER.

You might have cute kids...afterall you've made them your center. But how is that working for you? Is your pretty picture all that pretty? How are your kids living up to your ideal family goals? Do you ever see yourself shouting at them because they are not living up to your ideal center?

We are all messed up inside our center, more than we know, but the good news is this. If you invite Jesus into your center, he begins to clean house, shape your values and beliefs, your actions and decisions, your impact and influence. Your life actually begins to look brighter! And who is honored most by this? Jesus, he is worthy of all our loyalty, all of our love, all of our life's attention and affection!! He is worthy!

And when you love him with ALL your heart... you connect with the source of love, and rather than having NOTHING left, he fills you to overflowing as you love him with ALL your heart!

[Here's the one suggested practical practice.](#)

Rather than give you a whole list of things to work on to improve your marriage, let me suggest one changed approach, and one practical practice that will begin to change so many other things. **PRAY TOGETHER!**

Now if you are thinking, "Oh Crud, I should have skipped today". I get it. This can be very difficult. It is so vulnerable and personal. And it is the one thing your adversary the devil does NOT want you to do. . But please allow me to give you 3 suggestions to get started praying together.

- Keep it short.
- Keep it consistent.
- If you miss a day, don't miss two.

Dear God,

Give us wisdom and clear direction in all we do today. Help us to show Your love to each other and to shine Your light into the world. Keep us close to You, away from temptation, and always in Your will. In Jesus' name, amen.