

EXPERIENCE LIFE

Right Relationship

Big Idea

This week, Pastor Layne teaches about the importance of relationships, especially a relationship with God. We have an enemy who wants to destroy our relationship with our Heavenly father. Even when we are in relationship with God, the enemy attacks. Pastor Layne identified three enemies of relationships: prosperity, morality, and familiarity. When we begin to feel that we have no need, we tend to grow less dependent on Him. When we feel like we have no fault, we can become self-righteous. And when we lack gratitude for what God has done for us, we begin to feel entitled. When we begin to find ourselves distant from God, it is often a result of one of these enemies of relationships. Fasting is a powerful tool to defeat those enemies. Fasting is not a way to make ourselves miserable for God, but a way to declare our need for Him. Through fasting we can return to a right relationship with God by declaring our need for Him, turning back to Him, and declaring our love for Him. When we remove distractions and focus on God, we can return to Jesus-centered living.

Don't tear your clothing in your grief, but tear your hearts instead." Return to the Lord your God, for he is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. He is eager to relent and not punish.
-Joel 2:13

Discussion Questions

- Which of the three enemies of relationships do you find yourself most susceptible to?
- Share with the group a time that fasting has greatly impacted your relationship with God.
- In addition to fasting, what are some ways that you can declare your dependence on God?

Prayer Focus

Thank God for his immeasurable mercy and grace. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you an area in your life that has gotten out of order or an area where you have stopped seeking the Lord. Declare your dependence on God and ask Him to guide you and reveal himself to you.

Next Steps

Read more about fasting and prayer at 21days.churchofthehighlands.com and prayerfully consider what type of fast might be right for you.

Leader Tip

Be prepared to talk about different types of fasts. Encourage your group to pray about what to fast.