



## Part 4: I Have Decided to Focus on Relationships

### Big Idea

The life you are living today is a direct reflection of the decisions you have made in the past. To more clearly state the importance of understanding this truth, "Today's decisions create tomorrow's realities." The focus of this message is "I Have Decided to Focus on Relationships," stressing that each of us desperately need meaningful relationships if we are to successfully live out our purpose, and ultimately find the satisfaction we all desire.

*"Two are better than one...For if either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up."*

*- Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 (NIV)*

### Discussion Questions

- What kinds of things in our lives compete with our need for meaningful relationships with others? How do we safeguard ourselves from giving-in to those influences?
- Romans 12:18 says, "...as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." As followers of Christ, how "far" does it "depend on us?" How can we define that in specific situations in which we have experienced broken relationships? What is our role in healing those relationships?
- How do we determine if a relationship is leading us closer to Jesus, and when we determine that is not the case, how do we "redefine" the relationship? When is it necessary to sever a relationship?

### Next Steps

- We learned that "busyness" can keep us from pursuing the relationships that are essential to our spiritual, emotional and physical health. Take some time this week to assess the way you spend your time, and develop a plan to "get control of your schedule." Define the things that are essential, like intentionally investing in relationships with God and with others, and put those things on your calendar first.
- Set an appointment to connect with someone from your group before the next meeting.

### Prayer Focus

Have your group break out into groups of 2 or 3 and pray for one another, that God will lead them to recognize their need for healthy relationships, and that they will do "whatever it takes" to pursue those. Pray also that God will reveal relationships that need healing, and that He will give you strength to "take the initiative" in moving toward that healing.

### Leader Tips

Share a personal story about experiencing healing in a broken relationship, or about steps you have taken nurture the relationships that are important in your life (spouse, children, extended family, God, etc.)