



Restoring Relationships

Big Idea

Pastor Larry Stockstill begins the “Summer at Highlands” series by teaching us about restoring our relationships. Pastor Larry tell us that the word “restoration” comes from a Greek phrase that means to “repair a broken bone.” The word restoration is also used in Galatians 6:1 where Paul writes, “Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted.” The main point here is that even though they are difficult sometimes, relationships are non-disposable. We have a responsibility to mend them when they are broken. Many of us are facing the wrong direction in our relationships and need to make a change. As we turn away from the world and towards God, something transforms within us. God, in His love, by the grace of Jesus Christ, and with the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, works in us to bring healing and a right perspective towards the other relationships in our lives. According to Pastor Larry, there are five circles of relationships that we need to focus on: God, spouse, children, Small Group, and extended family. God is the source of all relational harmony. If you get yourself vertically right with God, then every horizontal relationship in your life will work itself out.

Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. – 2 Corinthians 13:11-14 ESV

Discussion Questions

- Discuss the five important relationships Pastor Larry encouraged us to develop (God, spouse, children, small group, and extended family). Which one do you need to be the most intentional about building this year?
- Pastor Larry talked about the meaning of restoration. What does restoration mean to you, and what does it look like in your everyday life?
- What is something in the past or present that is holding you back from finding healing within your relationships? Identify a few ways to improve the quality of your relationships.

Prayer Focus

Ask God to point out the relationships you need to nurture and heal. Use Ephesians 3:17-19 as a daily prayer to experience God’s boundless love for you so that you can share that same love with others.

Next Steps

The Summer Small Group semester launched this week. Invite your friends to join you in surrounding yourself with life-giving relationships by committing to a small group this semester.

Leader Tip

Ask your members what their prayer needs are and pray for each of them daily. Encourage anyone interested in leading a small group to complete the Growth Track and attend Small Group Leadership Training.