

TRANSFORM YOUR RELATIONSHIPS START HERE

Week 8 | Jesus Makes It Better | Genesis 3:15

USE THE TOOLS THAT GOD HAS GIVEN YOU

Last week I shared the story about the couple who had been religiously playing EuroMillions. If you recall, the wife had been handing the tickets over to her husband for safekeeping only to discover he had thrown away the winning ticket. What had happened in his life to bring him to the place where he wasn't even willing to give hope a chance? It would seem that between the probability of winning being so low and the failure rate being so high, he had stopped believing that winning was a possibility.

You know, we can get like that in relationships. With the high number of broken relationships and frequency of our own failure, we can quit before God even gets a chance to bring the victory. We can become so accustomed to failure that we give up hope. Let me remind you, all the tools for healthy, transformational relationships are at your fingertips. It's just up to you to use them.

Leaders: Take your group through each section: Pray, Reflect, and Reach. Keep in mind the time allowances. In the Reflect section, feel free to focus on several of these questions instead of all as time allows.



PRAY (10 min)

As a Home Group, take time to consider how many times God has heard your prayers and helped you in your relationships. Encourage one another and thank God in prayer.



REFLECT (25 min)

As you've had the opportunity to reflect on what God has spoken to you through the lesson this week, consider these questions as a group and discuss them.

1. Do you feel discouraged in a relationship right now? Has that discouragement led you to disbelieve that God can bring change? How do you think God wants you to handle this situation, and what tools has He provided to bring transformation to this situation?

You have all the tools necessary, in Christ, to have God glorifying fulfilling relationships.

2. The Bible teaches that we have an old nature that we need to "put off" and a new nature that we need to "put on." Describe how that is working in your life. Consider these questions. Do you live more to the new nature or the old nature? What are the most consistent relationship qualities that you demonstrate? How would those closest to you answer these questions about you?

The best version of yourself is the new nature that God has given you.

3. Prayer should be like a reflex to us. How much time do you invest in praying for people? Are you more likely to take matters into your own hands first or pray first? How can you make prayer a number one priority in your relationships?

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:16

4. Fear can lead us to isolate ourselves. While relationships are a risk and struggles are guaranteed, we were made to be in community.

What steps can you take to wisely bring others into your circle?

A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; He rages against all wise judgment.

Proverbs 18:1



WEEKLY MEMORIZATION VERSE

Matthew 7:24

Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock.



REACH (5 min)

Considering what God revealed to you this week, believe God for relationship victory as you use the tools that He has given to you.

Next week we will be anxiously waiting to hear about what God did in your life as you handled your relationships in His strength and not your own.

Dear Home Group Leader,

The following questions have been added to the Home Group curriculum to minister specifically to marriages. Even though not all of your people are married, please try to work these "Mindful of Marriage" questions in at the end of your meeting as they can benefit all.

If you don't have time to cover these questions in your meeting, please give the questions to the married couples as homework to do together. Thank you!

MINDFUL OF MARRIAGE...

- Do you believe that a life yielded to the Holy Spirit can be transformed? How does that speak to your marriage relationship?
- Read Eph 4:22-24. What does it mean to "put off" and "put on" in relationship to our behavior or nature? How does that figure into our marriage relationship on a day to day basis?
- Look at the attached list of "put offs" and "put ons". Are there particular ones that God is speaking to you about? Share how the scripture listed addresses it and how it is speaking to you.

Bible “Put Off’s” and “Put On’s”

	“Put Off”	Scriptural Insight		“Put On”
1.	Lack of love	1Jo 4:7,8,20	Jhn 15:12	Love
2.	Judging	Mat 7:1-2	Jhn 8:9 ; Jhn 15:22	Let God search my heart
3.	Bitterness	Heb 12:15	Eph 4:32	Tenderhearted and forgiving
4.	Unforgiving Sprit	Mar 11:26	Col 3:13	Forgiving spirit
5.	Selfishness	Phl 2:21	Jhn 12:24	Self denial
6.	Pride	Pro 16:5	Jas 4:6	Humility
7.	Boasting (Conceit)	1Co 4:7	Phl 2:3	Esteeming others
8.	Stubbornness	1Sa 15:23	Rom 6:13	Brokenness
9.	Disrespect for authority	Act 23:5	Heb 13:17	Honor authority
10.	Rebellion	1Sa 15:23	Heb 13:17	Submission
11.	Disobedience	1Sa 12:15	Deu 11:27	Obedience
12.	Impatience	Jas 1:2-4	Heb 10:36	Patience
13.	Ungratefulness	Rom 1:21	Eph 5:20	Gratefulness
14.	Covetousness	Luk 12:15	Heb 13:5	Contentment
15.	Discontent	Heb 13:5	1Ti 6:8	Contentment
16.	Murmuring/ Complaining	Phl 2:14	Heb 13:15	Praise
17.	Irritation of others	Gal 5:26	Phl 2:3-4	Preferring in love
18.	Jealousy	Gal 5:26	1Co 13:4	Trust
19.	Strife/Contention	Pro 13:10	Jas 3:17	Peace
20.	Retaliation (Getting even)	Pro 24:29	Rom 12:19-20	Return good for evil
21.	Losing temper	Pro 25:28	Pro 16:32	Self-control
22.	Anger	Pro 29:22	Gal 5:22-23	Self-control
23.	Wrath	Jas 1:19-20	Pro 15:1	Soft answer
24.	Easily irritated	1Co 13:5	Pro 19:11	Not easily provoked
25.	Hatred	Mat 5:21-22	1Co 13:3	Love
26.	Murder	Exd 20:13	Rom 13:10	Love
27.	Gossip	1Ti 5:13	Eph 4:29	Edifying speech
28.	Evil speaking	Jas 4:11	Pro 15:30	Good report
29.	Critical spirit	Gal 5:15	Col 3:12	Kindness

Bible “Put Off’s” and “Put On’s”

	“Put Off”	Scriptural Insight		“Put On”
30.	Lying	Eph 4:25	Zec 8:16	Speak truth
31.	Profanity	Pro 4:24	Pro 15:4	Pure speech
32.	Idle words	Mat 12:36	Pro 21:23	Bridle tongue
33.	Wrong motives	1Sa 16:7	1Co 10:31	Spiritual motives
34.	Evil thoughts	Mat 5:19-20	Phl 4:8	Pure thoughts
35.	Complacency	Rev 3:15	Rev 3:19	Zeal
36.	Laziness	Pro 20:4	Pro 6:6-11	Diligence
37.	Slothfulness (Not doing best)	Pro 18:9	Col 3:23	Wholeheartedness
38.	Hypocrisy	Job 8:13	1Th 2:3	Sincerity
39.	Idolatry	Deu 11:16	Col 1:18	Worship God only
40.	Left first love	Rev 2:4	Rev 2:5	Fervent devotion
41.	Lack of rejoicing always	Phl 4:4	1Th 5:18	Rejoice
42.	Worry/Fear	Mat 6:25-32	1Pe 5:7	Trust
43.	Unbelief	Heb 3:12	Heb 11:1, 6	Faith
44.	Unfaithfulness	Pro 25:19	Luk 16:10-12	Faithfulness
45.	Neglect of Bible study	2Ti 3:14-17	Psa 1:2	Bible study/Meditation
46.	Prayerlessness	Luk 18:1	Mat 26:41	Praying
47.	No burden for the lost	Mat 9:36-38	Act 1:8	Compassion/Witnessing
48.	Burying talents	Luk 12:48	1Co 4:2	Developing abilities
49.	Irresponsibility (Family/Work)	Luk 16:12	Luk 16:10	Responsibility
50.	Procrastination	Pro 10:5	Pro 27:1	Diligence
51.	Irreverence in church	Ecc 5:1	Psa 89:7	Reverence
52.	Inhospitable	1Pe 4:9	Rom 12:13	Hospitable
53.	Cheating	2Co 4:2	2Co 8:21	Honesty
54.	Stealing	Pro 29:24	Eph 4:28	Working/Giving
55.	Lack of moderation	Pro 11:1	1Co 9:25	Temperance
56.	Gluttony	Pro 23:21	1Co 9:27	Discipline
57.	Wrong friends	Psa 1:1	Pro 13:20	Godly friends
58.	Temporal values	Mat 6:19-21	2Co 4:18	Eternal value
59.	Love of money/Greed	1Ti 6:9-10	Mat 6:33	Love God
60.	Stinginess	1Jo 3:17	Pro 11:24-25	Generosity

Bible “Put Off’s” and “Put On’s”

	“Put Off”	Scriptural Insight		“Put On”
61.	Moral impurity	1Th 4:7	1Th 4:4	Moral purity
62.	Fornication	1Co 6:18	1Th 4:3	Abstinence
63.	Lust	1Pe 2:11	Tts 2:12	Pure desires
64.	Adultery	Mat 5:27-28	Pro 5:14-19	Marital fidelity
65.	Homosexuality	Lev 18:22	1Th 4:4-5	Moral purity
66.	Incest	Lev 18:6	1Co 7:2, 5	Moral purity
67.	Pornography	Psa 101:3	Phl 4:8	Pure thoughts
68.	Immodest dress	Pro 7:10	1Ti 2:9	Modesty
69.	Flirtation	Pro 7:21	1Pe 3:4	Gentle, quiet spirit
70.	Worldly entertainment	Pro 21:17	Gal 5:16	Spiritual pursuits
71.	Fleshly music	Eph 4:29-30	Eph 5:19	Edifying music
72.	Bodily harm	1Co 3:16-17	1Co 6:19-20	Glorify God in body
73.	Alcoholism	Pro 20:1	Pro 23:30	Abstinence
74.	Following the crowd	Pro 1:10	Pro 3:7	God-fearing
75.	Witchcraft/ Astrology/ Horoscopes	Deu 18:10-11	Deu 6:5	Worship of God
76.	Gambling	Pro 28:20-22	Luk 16:11	Good stewardship
77.	Preferential treatment	Jas 2:1-9	Luk 6:31	Love neighbor as self
78.	Presumption on the future	Pro 27:1	Jas 4:14-16	Trust God’s will