



## Lesson 17

# Restoring Relationships

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**LESSON 17 SUMMARY:** The group will talk about four Key Relationships given by God and how Savings Groups can heal damaged relationships.

**TIME:** 1/2 hour

Key Verse: Matthew 22:37-40

Preparation and materials needed for this lesson:

- Make sure the House of Principles poster is where everyone can see it.



**1.** Who will share something you learned in our last Savings Group meeting and how it helped you?

- ▶ Thank you for sharing!

Today, we will talk about how your Savings Group can repair broken relationships.



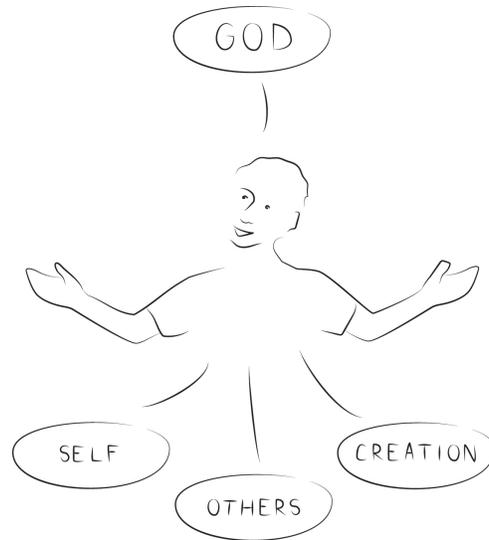
**2.** Please turn to a partner and answer this question: What are your most important relationships? You'll have two minutes, and then we'll hear a sample of your answers.

Who is willing to share about the most important relationships in your lives?

- ▶ Thank you for sharing!



Listen to these words of Jesus from Matthew 22:37-40.



*“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”*

What do you hear in these words of Jesus?

► Thank you for sharing!

God created us to be in four Key Relationships as humans.

1. Our relationship with God: We are to love God and worship Him only.
2. Our relationship with others: God made us to live in loving relationships with others. We are to care for each other and look for ways to help people.
3. Our relationship with ourselves: We are to love ourselves. God has made us in His own image and He loves us.
4. Our relationship with creation: God made us to take care of His world. This includes the things God gives us like money, time, and things. He wants us to work, take care of nature, and create things that help people.

What questions do you have about these relationships?

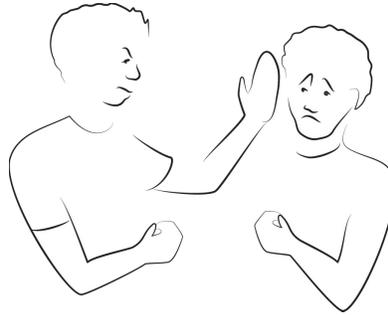
*Answer with your biblical knowledge when you can, or say, “That’s a good question!” or “Let me find out more and get back to you.”*

**3.** When humans decided to disobey God, all of our relationships were damaged.

Here are some examples of how we see broken relationships:

- Instead of loving the one true God, people worship spirits or false gods.
- Instead of caring for themselves, people drink too much alcohol.





- Instead of respecting all people, people hate others from different tribes or regions.
- Instead of caring for God's creation, people ruin the land and water with trash.

What are some ways that we see broken relationships in our community?

► Thank you for sharing.

**4.** In Jesus, God heals our broken relationships.



Listen to Colossians 1:19-20:

*"God was pleased to have His whole nature living in Christ. God was pleased to bring all things back to Himself. That's because of what Christ has done. These things include everything on earth and in heaven. God made peace through Christ's blood, by His death on the cross." (NIRV)*

What do you hear in these verses?

► Thank you for sharing!

**5.** God cares about everything. God cares about our families, our money, our water, and our community. God can and wants to make new again all our broken relationships.

**6.** God can use Savings Groups to heal our relationships.



Turn to a person next to you. Talk about how Jesus is using your Savings Group to restore relationships.

What did you and your partner share about Jesus' work in our Savings Group?

► Thank you for sharing!

Think about what we learned about today. Call out some things that we can do as a Savings Group to improve our relationships with God, with others, with ourselves, and with God's creation.

Which of these things do you want to do as a group to help improve these relationships? Secretary, please write this down.

► You have done great work today!



7. Let's close in prayer:

*God, thank you for creating us to live in relationship with you, with ourselves, with others, and with your creation. Please help us to strengthen the relationships in our Savings Group, so that we can honor you. Amen.*

