

PROJECT LOVE

Simple outlines for youth pastors.

The following is a series of four simple outlines for youth pastors/leaders. They were created for a leader to use over the course of a month to instruct students in the area of relationships. They are skeletal frameworks of studies, which leaders can customize by using their own illustrations and life examples to put flesh on the bones. We hope this resource is the simple boost leaders might need to address these issues with their students and emphasize the critical need for holiness, integrity and purity in relationships.



Week 1

A Relationship of Primacy (God)

You were made for a relationship with God. This relationship should be the foundational relationship of your life, as by and through it, you view all other relationships. (1 Sam. 2:2; Psalm 119:9-12; Mark 12:30)

Your relationship with God affects every other relationship because:

- **As a believer, you no longer live according to your own desires, but according to His.**
 - 1 Corinthians 5:14-15
 - This means that the purpose of my life is to live for Christ and the relationships I form should reflect that purpose.
- **You view the needs of others as more important than your own.**
 - Philippians 2:3-4
 - This means my I do not form relationships based on the priority of my needs, but I look out for the needs of others.
- **If God is the primary relationship in your life, you will not seek in others that which He alone was meant to provide.**
 - 1 Kings 11:1-3
 - Solomon sought to please his wives more than God. He gave them the esteem and devotion that was meant for God alone in order to secure their affection for him.

Application:

- Commit to God to make the relationship you have with Him as the primary relationship of your life.
- Pledge to not enter any relationship that would compromise this commitment.
- Promise to view all relationships through the lens of your love for God and commit to His purposes in each of them.



Week 2

Relationships of Priority (Family)

God has supernaturally placed you in the family of His choosing in order to accomplish both His purposes in you and in them. And if God has the primary spot of relationship in your life, your family was meant to have priority behind Him. (Acts 17:26-27; Proverbs 11:29)

God created families to be the loving and supportive training grounds for life, love, and faith. (Deuteronomy 6:4-9)

- Families were designed to love God, first and foremost. (vss. 4-6)
 - Families are to declare that there is but one true God! (vs. 4)
 - Families are to live in such a way as to reflect a complete love for God. (vs. 5)
 - For families, loving God is not to be a RULE issue, but a HEART issue. (vs. 6)
- Families were designed as training grounds for life and faith.
 - Every situation is a teaching and a learning opportunity. (vs. 7)
 - This way of life is meant to be a declaration to the world of your faith in Christ. (vss. 8-9)

Satan works to ensnare and destroy individuals, and he works toward the same purpose with families. (John 10:10; Mark 3:25),

- Like all people are given to stray from God's design, families have the same problem. (Romans 3:23; 2 Samuel 12:10-11)
 - David strayed and his family paid for it.
- Just because your family may not currently reflect a commitment to God's design does not mean that God is not using your family to shape you into the person He wants you to be. (2 Kings 21:19-22:2)
 - Josiah had both a wicked father and grandfather, but when he assumed the throne, he righted his family.
- You can't change everything in your family, but you can be obedient to God's role for you in your family. (Exodus 20:12; Proverbs 1:8, 15:20)
 - The commandment of God is to "obey your parents," it isn't to obey your GODLY parents. (Ephesians 6:1-2)

Application:

- If you are a part of a family seeking to live according to God's design, thank Him for your family, and commit to walk in such a way as to uphold your family values.
- If you are a part of a family that is currently not living according to God's design, thank Him for your family also, and commit to walk in such a way as to lead others in your family to desire Godliness.
- Regardless of your circumstances, commit to one day lead your future family according to the will and purposes of God.



Week 3

Relationships of Purpose (Friendship)

God made us people of relationship. We seek the companionship of others because we seek the companionship of God. If we have rightly made God the priority relationship of our life, then our friendships become relationships of purpose. Friends become people of fulfillment for both us and them, because instead of being self-gratifying props for our self esteem, they are helpful and meaningful companions of growth.

A friend is someone who:

- Has your best interest at heart (Prov. 13:20)
 - They seek that which will truly benefit you.
 - They won't let your life go into the ditch without resistance.
- Is on the Lord's side in your life (Prov. 12:26)
 - They share your faith in Christ.
 - They serve as accountability for your life, with not only their words, but their own conduct.
- Values the truth over your favor (Eph. 4:15)
 - They would rather face your anger than betray God's truth in your life.
 - They are more concerned with your holiness than your happiness.

To have a friend, be a friend

- Be loyal (Prov. 17:17)
 - You can love someone, even when they make a mess of things, without condoning the bad decisions they make.
 - Routinely put their interests above your own (Phil 2:3-4)
- Be encouraging (Heb. 3:13)
 - Champion their admirable qualities.
 - Support them through tough times.
 - When they stumble, help pick them up, redirect them, and urge them on.
- Be faithful (Prov. 27:17)
 - Make sure your walk with God is strong.
 - Be willing to let them speak into your life as you would into theirs.
 - Pursue goals that bring you both closer to God as you grow closer in friendship.



Week 4

Relationships of Passion (Dating)

As God's children we represent Him in all we do, especially in our dating relationships. We will marry someone we date and our marriages are intended to be a reflection of the committed, loving relationship God has with us. The old coaching adage is: we play like we practice. How can we ever intend to have Godly marriages if we do not practice Godly dating? (1 Thess. 4:1-8)

We must acknowledge the authority of God in our lives (1 Thess. 4:1-2)

- We must accept His word as truth.
 - 1 Thess. 2:13
- He must have authority over your behavior/standards.
 - Proverbs 21:8
- He must have authority over your relationships.
 - Gen. 1:27

Practice Self Control (1 Thess. 4:3-6a)

- According to God's word, marriage is the qualifier for sexual activity. And though the world promotes love as the reason for engaging in sexual activity, statistics show that very few actually participate for that reason.
 - A secular survey reports that when sexually active teens are asked why they decided to have sex, only 11% of girls and 6% of guys said it was because of love. Overwhelmingly, the number one response was peer pressure.
- Don't confuse lust with love.
 - Lust is self-centered. It is ruled by an overmastering desire for an object. It seeks to gratify the senses. Love, on the other hand, is other-centered. It is a controlled commitment to a person. It seeks to gratify the soul.
- Utilize wise guidelines:
 - Guys, if you love your girlfriend, your date, or even your fiancée, you'll never press her or even encourage her to do anything sexually that will:
 - Cause her to lose respect for herself
 - Cause you and her to lose respect for each other
 - Cause problems in her relationship with God
 - Produce gossip (almost always the guy subsequently brags about his conquest to his friends)
 - Girls, if you love him, you'll never tease him by:
 - The way you dress (revealing clothes, tight-fitting apparel, skimpy swimsuits)
 - The way you act. So many girls think they need to look and act sexy, but how untrue that is! It may work as a snare, but love...true and lasting love, begins with respect.
- The bottom line is God has called us to be holy. (1 Peter 1:16)
 - Set high standards in regard to physical purity.

- Don't fool yourself into believing that purity allows everything but sexual intercourse. Spinoza said, "We don't desire things because they are good, we call them good because we desire them." He was saying that we often are guilty of calling something "good" just because we desire it and not because it is actually "good" at all.

Know the consequences of impurity (1 Thess. 4:6b)

- Loss of self-esteem, self-worth.
- Possibility of contracting an STD (sexually transmitted disease)
- Possible pregnancy
- Major spiritual damage

Remember whose you are (1 Thess. 4:7-8)

- Determine to trust God's heart (Matthew 11:28-29)
- His holiness is our benefit (Hebrews 12:10)
- Remember we serve a forgiving God (Isaiah 43:25)