



## Discussion Questions from Weekly Message

Feel free to customize this to use in your small group, family or for you personally.

### From Message on: 05-16-21

#### Optional Opener Question

What is the oldest thing you own? How old? Why have you saved it? What's the story behind it?

#### Introductory Thought

This Sunday we continue a new series entitled "Gauges." A gauge measures something and this Sunday we looked at the question "How is your relationship tank doing today?" We used **Simon Sinek's 5 STEPS FOR SUCCESS** as our reference point.

#### Discussion Questions

- Beside family, what relationships are important to you and why? Do you have any thoughts/guesses as to why God created us to be in relationships? After this year of COVID quarantines and hiding behind masks, in what ways do you think our relationship tanks have suffered? Or perhaps the relationship tanks have done better because some of the (unhealthy) holes were plugged by lack of contact? How so?
- What do you think Brent meant when he said that "relationships are hard work?" Agree, disagree or somewhere in between? What about adding the word Healthy or Unhealthy? Does that make a difference in your answer?
- 1. Be the last to speak. What do you think he meant by that? Is learning to listen the same as being the last to speak? Is listening the same as hearing & understanding? How does speaking last convey value to others' opinions? Why do so many of us appear to listen, but in truth are only waiting for a pause in the conversation in order to speak? What part does pride play? Add these verses to the discussion:
  - James 1:19          Prov 18:13          Prov 18:2
- 2. Look past the obstacle to the opportunity. Retell the story of the long line vs free bagels if you need to. What are some obstacles in relationships and why are they so easy for us humans to see? How would you define opportunities in relationships? What's the difference between seeing reality and seeing the potential? Is it possible to train myself to focus on the words "see past?" How does this step fuel my relationship tank?  
*Extra credit: read and apply the example of John 3:16 to this step!*
- 3. Serve and sacrifice for others. Define Serve. Define Sacrifice. In what ways do we or can we serve others? How have you been served in the past? In what ways does serving OTHERS fuel MY relationship tank? As a group, come up with more than one way: move from the easy answers to the less obvious. Add Gal 5:13-15 to the discussion.
- 4. Sometimes you're the problem. Ouch! How does this apply to the area of relationships? How do I know I'm the problem? What are some problems in myself that could have a negative effect in my relationships? What part does pride play here? Add these verses to the discussion:
  - Matt 7:3-5          Ps 36:2          James 1:26          Rev 3:17
- 5. Stay humble. Why is this important in relationships? What does the opposite look like? Does real humility call attention to itself in any way? (*Interesting footnote on Moses in Numbers 12:3*) Add these to the discussion:
  - James 4:6          Luke 14:11          I Peter 5:6-7

#### Practical Application & Next Step

- Life gets busy and urgent, but we need to continue to pray. Thank God ahead of His answer to our prayers for a permanent home. While the answer may not be readily apparent now, God promises to hear our prayers and His timing is always perfect. Faith is believing what you cannot see – YET. Praise God and give Him thanks.
- Has God gently turned the light on in an area of your relationships that surprised you? Has He nudged you to work on something? Have you put anything (or everything) before the earthly relationships in your life? What will you do with that information? What can you do to make things right? For the next seven days, let that insight be your focus with intentionality.