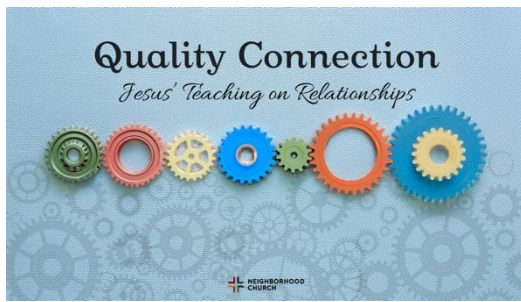




Initiation Matters

Matthew 18:10-14

September 13, 2026

God cares for and seeks people who are lost, and so should we.

Answers to the fill in the blanks, extra Bible verses and study questions

Introduction Notes:

Matthew 18:11 For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost

Luke 19:10

3 Reasons to Initiate Connection

People Matter Matthew 18:10

John 3:16, Romans 5:8, Psalm 145:8-9, Psalm 139, James 2:8-9

Psalm 34:7, 91:11, Hebrews 1:14

People Wander Matthew 18:11-13

Luke 15:3-5, Luke 15, Luke 19:1-10

John 8:44, 1 Peter 5:8, 1 John 4:4

God Cares Matthew 18:14

Luke 15:11-32

Study Questions to Go Deeper with God:

Who is the Lord asking me to notice? Matthew 18:10 reminds us not to “despise” the seemingly insignificant.

Jesus places great value on people who might easily be overlooked. Who is someone the Lord may be asking me to notice, value, and intentionally connect with - especially someone who might easily be overlooked, excluded, or taken for granted? What could I do this week to initiate that connection? **Further study:** Genesis 1:26–27, Psalm 139:13–18, Luke 15:1–7, Philippians 2:3–4 — Consider the interests of others. **Challenge:** Don't simply ask, “Who needs me?” Ask, “Lord, whom are You helping me see?”

Who is the Lord asking me to pursue? Matthew 18:12–13 pictures a shepherd who doesn't passively wait for the wandering sheep to return. He goes after it. Biblical connection often requires initiative, patience, and loving pursuit. Is there someone in my life who has wandered, become disconnected, grown distant from the church, or simply seems to be struggling? **Further study:** Ezekiel 34:11–16, Galatians 6:1–2, James 5:19–20, 1 Thessalonians 5:14.

What connection is the Lord calling me to initiate? Matthew 18:14 reveals God's heart. He does not desire that the vulnerable, wandering, or seemingly insignificant should perish. God's concern for people becomes the motivation for our concern for people. If God genuinely cares about the people around us, how should that change the way you approach relationships? **Further study:** John 3:16–17, 2 Peter 3:9, 1 Timothy 2:3–6, Romans 15:7.

Challenge: Initiation matters because people matter to God. The question isn't simply, “Who is connected to me?” but “Lord, who do You want me to connect with?” This week, identify one person and take one intentional first step. Notice them. Contact them. Listen to them. Invite them. Encourage them. Pursue them. We don't initiate connection because people have earned it. We initiate because Christ first loved us and sought us.

A great article about angels: <https://www.gotquestions.org/angels-Bible.html>

