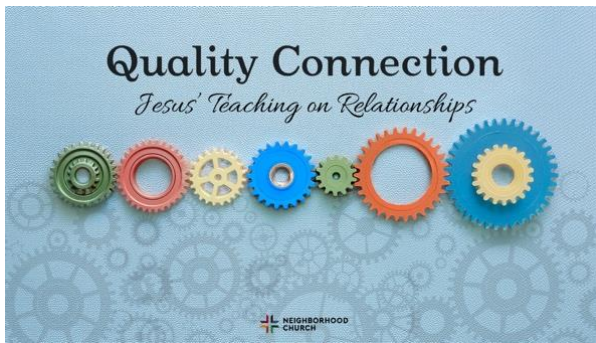




Pursue the Disconnected

Matthew 18:15-20

September 20, 2026

Seeking to restore relationships through loving like Jesus brings back quality connections.

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

Introduction Notes:

A Process to Repair Fractured Relationships

Be Persistent Matthew 18:15-17

Matthew 11:28, Psalm 147:3, Psalm 103:3-5, Matthew 7:3-5, Romans 12:18

Follow Jesus' Procedure Matthew 18:18

Matthew 16:19, Matthew 23

Acknowledge God's Presence Matthew 18:19-20

Matthew 1:23, Joshua 1:9, Isaiah 41:10, Hebrews 13:5, 1 Peter 5:10

Study Questions to Go Deeper with God:

Will I make the first move toward restoration? Jesus doesn't tell us to ignore relational conflict, talk about the person behind their back, or simply wait for them to come to us. He calls us to go. Pursuing the disconnected begins with the humility and courage to initiate a loving conversation. Is there a relationship in my life where Jesus may be asking me to take the first step toward restoration - and what would it look like to approach that person with humility, truth, grace, and love rather than avoidance, anger, or condemnation? **Study these passages:** Matthew 5:23-24, Ephesians 4:1-3, Ephesians 4:25-32, Colossians 3:12-15, Proverbs 15:1.

Will I pursue restoration rather than simply proving I'm right? The objective isn't winning an argument; it is restoring a relationship. When further steps are necessary (vv. 16-17), Jesus provides a process that involves additional witnesses and, ultimately, the church. This demonstrates that serious relational issues should be handled truthfully, carefully, fairly, and with the hope of restoration. When relationships become disconnected, am I more concerned with being right or with lovingly seeking to "gain my brother or sister"? What would pursuing restoration look like in a specific relationship? **Study these passages:** Galatians 6:1-2, James 1:19-20, Proverbs 18:13, 2 Timothy 2:24-25, 1 Peter 3:8-9.

Will I depend on Jesus to restore what I cannot fix? Restoring broken relationships isn't something we accomplish merely through better communication techniques. Jesus is present with His people, and reconciliation ultimately depends upon God's grace and transforming work. The church is called to pursue people, pray together, speak truth in love, forgive, and extend grace—while trusting God with the outcome. What disconnected relationship do I need to bring before Jesus in prayer, asking Him to give me the humility, courage, wisdom, and love necessary to pursue restoration—and how can other believers help me pursue that relationship well? **Study these passages:** John 13:34-35, John 15:4-5, 12, Philippians 2:1-5, Philippians 4:2-3, Ephesians 4:31-32.

A great article about what the Bible means by binding and loosing: <https://www.gotquestions.org/binding-loosing.html>