

Sherwood Oaks Christian Church



life groups

The Power of Relationships

“We need more spiritual communities where good friends and wise people turn their chairs toward each other and talk well.” Larry Crabb

Transforming our relationships means learning to treat people as God treats us, seeing them as God sees us.” – T.J. Addington

1. Introduction

2. One Big Bag of Assorted Flavors

Bear Questions

1. What’s your favorite color and how does it make you feel?
2. What’s your favorite animal (doesn’t have to be a pet) and what is the characteristic you most like about it?
3. What do you do if you meet a bear in the woods?
4. You’re in complete, pitch-black dark room – except there’s a keyhole with light coming through. What do you do?

3. In your groups, take the Lollipop Leadership Test and answer these questions:

- Which lollipop type are you?
- Which type most challenges you?

4. 1 John 4:19: We love because he first loved us.

5. Navigating the Accelerating Postmodern Culture

Only a decade ago, a blackberry was a mere summer fruit, green was a color, and reality TV was one show sandwiched between music videos.

6. Things have changed from Leave it to Beaver vs. The Kardashians

7.

Modernism



CLEAVERS

- 1980s
- Breadwinner dad/ stay at home mom/ kids
- 70% adults were married
- 68% people in twenties were married
- 84% of children lived with 2 married parents
- 45% disapprove of cohabitation
- 430,000 people cohabitated
- 68% believed pre-marital sex was wrong
- 29% favor/allow same sex marriage

Postmodernism



KARDASHIANS

- 2000s
- no mom/dad role/ divorce/ children have kids
- 50% adults are married
- 26% people in twenties are married
- 64% of children live with 2 married parents
- 27% disapprove cohabitation
- 7.5 million people cohabit
- 40% children exposed to cohabitation
- 32% believe pre-marital sex is wrong
- 53% favor/allow same sex marriage
- 88 % text, 90% use internet. 75% have social media profile

8. Characteristics and claims of the culture we are called to lead:

- No absolute truth.
- No one view is correct.
- Truth is created in each person's mind.
- Montra: Tolerance and being nonjudgmental.
- There is no fixed moral code. (Judges 21:25 Everyone does what is right in their own eyes.)

(Kaila should be emailing me a list of statistics that will go here.)

9. Good News: Postmodern families are searching for the truth.

10. The Challenge: How can we build community in “One Big Bag of Assorted Flavors”?

- A. Ruthless pursuit of two things in our one and only lives.
 - a. Tell about the last time you experienced the overwhelming love of God.
- B. Expectations vs. Behavior
- C. Power of Empathy
- D. Five powerful words to transform any relationship:
 - a. _____ _____ _____ _____ _____?

11. What will we do with our handful of jelly beans?

Sources:

- Statistics taken from christianitytoday.com
- Scary Close by Donald Miller
- Becoming a True Spiritual Community by Larry Crabb
- True Faced by Bill Thrall
- The Gifts of Imperfection by Brene Brown