



Goals & Key Concepts

- 1. To learn how Christ is your foundation for all relational connections.*
- 2. To learn biblical strategies for discerning relational connections.*
- 3. To understand the purpose for a relationship.*
- 4. To help you increase and manage your relational connections that are godly and to learn strategies to connect or reconnect with others i.e., inviting others, expanding your circles, stepping out in faith to relate well.*
- 5. To help you decrease or manage your relational connections that are ungodly or to appropriately disconnect when the season is over i.e., confronting behaviors, creating healthy distances, initiating a farewell, and moving on in your life.*
- 6. To understand the role of conflict in your life and use it to become a better person.*
- 7. To learn skills on how to connect with others i.e., making new friends, reconnecting with family members, increasing connections in your career, church, or other communities with any type of relationship.*

Welcome Ladies of Speak the Word Church International,

Thank you for joining the final Women's Bible Study Part 3 Maximizing Your Relational Connections. Are you experiencing the best possible outcomes for your relationships? Are you accommodating someone else's behaviors or attitudes that you are not comfortable with? How are you managing the conflict in your relationships? Who are you connected and committed to?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO MAXIMIZE YOUR RELATIONSHIPS?

The definition of the term "maximize" suggests that there is an increase or value-added component to something or someone. As believers, we must add value to others and have godly experiences in our relationships in our daily interactions and long-term relations with others.

The Holy Spirit provides discernment to help women know how they should relate to others. The Holy Spirit is the helper who shows us how to connect with the right person or group of people. Maximizing your relational connections is giving the Holy Spirit the authority in your life to help you make godly decisions. He will show you how to relate correctly to an individual or group of people. Maximizing is about learning the skill to seek the Lord for each relationship that you have and to inquire about the Lord's will for your life and that relationship?

Do you know the purpose of your relationships? What is the reason that person or group of people are in your life? Have you ever come to the point where you had to seek the Lord about the reasons for someone being in your life? What is the function and the role of that person in your life and vice versa? How are you going to make their life better? What is the connection or the conflict that has occurred? What are the solutions and what are the problems?

HOW DO I MAXIMIZE MY RELATIONSHIPS?

A. THINK ABOUT HOW YOU ARE GOING TO RELATE TO OTHERS!

It's a fact that there may be times when you cannot choose the type of relationship *title or role* that you will have with others but you can choose how you want to relate them. Thinking according to the Word of God allows you to see others from his perspective. The Word of God provides a framework for you to follow in terms of your thinking and how you relate to people. You cannot choose your parents, your family members or maybe your supervisors at your job, but you can choose how you bring value and increase to the relationship. You can think about how you are going to relate to them in a godly manner before you engage with them at the family event, at the dinner table or in the boardroom.

A. Questions:

1. Think of some life experiences where you had to make choices to add value to the relationships prior to engaging with the individual or in the situation.

Spouse:

Parent:

Sibling:

Colleague:

Friend:

2. How did you handle the situation within the relationship? What scripture did you use to guide you as you interacted with that person?

DEALING WITH CONFLICT

The way that you think about conflict will determine the outcome of your relationships. A maximizing mindset understands that conflict will occur in relationships and to think that it will not happen is erroneous thinking. All relationship encounter conflict and connection and both can help a person to grow. If you don't have any conflict in any of your relationships, it could be a sign that your relationship is inauthentic and unsustainable. The scriptures provide some very keyways to handle it when we encounter it.

Matthew 18: 7, 15-20 Woe to the world because of offenses! For offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes! [...] 15 "Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. 16 But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.' 17 And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector. 18 "Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. 19 "Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

Romans 12:9-21

9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. 10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; 11 not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; 13 distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. 14 Bless

those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. 16 Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. 17 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. 18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. 19 Beloved do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. 20 Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Ephesians 4:25

25 Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another. 26 "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, 27 nor give place to the devil. 28 Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. 29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Proverbs 22:24-25 Make no friendship with an angry man, and with a furious man do not go, 25 Lest you learn his ways and set a snare for your soul.

Proverbs 18:19 A brother offended is harder to win than a strong city, And contentions are like the bars of a castle.

3. How do you handle conflict in your relationships? Would these scriptures apply to any of your relationships and what was the outcome of the conflict? Can you think of any others scriptures related to conflict?

S.O.A.P REFLECTION POINT:
USE THE "SOAP" (SCRIPTURE, APPLY, OBSERVE, PRAY) BOXES TO HELP YOU PROCESS THE INFORMATION YOU RECENTLY READ

<p>A. SCRIPTURE: How does these scripture minister to me?</p>	<p>B. APPLICATION: How does this apply to my life?</p>
<p>C. OBSERVATION: What have I observed from this text or about what was stated in the Bible study tonight?</p>	<p>D. PRAYER: What do I need prayer for? What have I been praying about?</p>

B. MAKE COMMITTED RELATIONAL CONNECTIONS ON A FREQUENT BASIS.

Did you know that relationships do not happen organically? Connections are not random, they are intentional. To maximize relationships, it requires that both individuals are willing to put in the hard work of making what currently is present into something more. Did you know that it takes time to invest into others and develop the Fruit of the Spirit and other attributes God's character?

It is important to make connections on a frequent basis with others to secure the bond between whichever relational connection you are going to have or create. In some relationships it is easy to have connections on a frequent basis because you see some people every day and it feels rather effortless. However, there are some relationships where you must try to meet each other. When a person makes a series of frequent and consistent connections, then commitment occurs. Commitments are stronger than connections because commitment has the depth of value-added time and experience in the roots of the relationship.

For some women this may indicate that it will take more strength for them to develop a connection into a commitment. This may indicate that for some women they should reconnect to get a sense of commitment back into their relationship. For example, you may need more fruit of the Spirit to help you mentally, emotionally, physically, and spiritually to connect with others to manage or maximize your life.

When connections are not made on a frequent basis (calling, screen time, meetings, face-to-face, prayer, check-ins, serving each other-- whatever works for you) there may be an opportunity for a lack of communication, assumptions, and misleading narratives to invade the space where the relational connection should've been strengthened. When relationships are strengthened in the Word of God they are not easily broken. When relationships are founded in the Word of God, they will grow and maximize. Motives will always play a role in terms of demonstrating who wants to maximize and who wants to minimize the outcome of the relationships.

B. Questions:

4. What has been easy for you in terms of making connections with others? What are your habits in terms of making those connections? How important is it for women to maximize their relational connections? What have been the difficulties for you in terms of making frequent connections with others?

5. Have you ever had the experience in any type of relationship where time, distance and life experiences had an impact on the outcome of the relationship?

Did the relationship maximize or minimize? What were the factors that supported this outcome?

6. Have you ever noticed that your relationship needed more strength spiritually, mentally, emotionally, or physically to connect with someone or to disconnect because of the conflict?

7. What did you experience when you made frequent connections to get to a place of commitment in a relationship? Have you ever had a lack of commitment that led to disconnection? What happened?

C. SCRIPTURES: WOMEN IN THE BIBLE WHO MADE FREQUENT CONNECTIONS TO MAXIMIZE THE RELATIONSHIP.

- **Ruth & Naomi – Genesis 1:16-18** *But Ruth said: "Entreat me not to leave you, or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go.*
 - a) *How did Ruth think about her relationship to Naomi? What caused this?*
 - b) *Was there a connection point of a conflict point of a relationship?*
 - c) *How frequent was the connection made between them?*

- **Rebecca & Jacob- Genesis 24:15,52,57,60**

And it happened, before he had finished speaking, that behold, Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, came out with her pitcher on her shoulder[...] 52 And it came to pass, when Abraham's servant heard their words, that he worshiped the Lord, bowing himself to the earth. 53 Then the servant brought out jewelry of silver, jewelry of gold, and clothing, and gave them to Rebekah.

He also gave precious things to her brother and to her mother. [...] 57 So they said, "We will call the young woman and ask her personally." 58 Then they called Rebekah and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" And she said, "I will go." 59 So they sent away Rebekah their sister and her nurse, and Abraham's servant and his men. 60 And they blessed Rebekah and said to her: "Our sister, may you become the mother of thousands of ten thousands; And may your descendants possess The gates of those who hate them." 61 Then Rebekah and her maids arose, and they rode on the camels and followed the man. So the servant took Rebekah and departed. 62 Now Isaac came from the way of Beer Lahai Roi, for he dwelt in the South. 63 And Isaac went out to meditate in the field in the evening; and he lifted his eyes and looked, and there, the camels were coming. 64 Then Rebekah lifted her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she dismounted from her camel; 65 for she had said to the servant, "Who is this man walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So, she took a veil and covered herself. 66 And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. 67 Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent; and he took Rebekah and she became his wife, and he loved her. So, Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

- a) How did Rebecca think about her relationship with Jacob? What caused this? Who else was involved in their relationship?
- b) Was this a connection point or a conflict point in their relationship?
- c) What were the frequent connections made between them?

▪ Deborah and Barak Judges 4:4-10

4 Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, was judging Israel at that time. 5 And she would sit under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the mountains of Ephraim. And the children of Israel came up to her for judgment. 6 Then she sent and called for Barak the son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, "Has not the Lord God of Israel commanded, 'Go and deploy troops at Mount Tabor; take with you ten thousand men of the sons of Naphtali and of

the sons of Zebulun; 7 and against you I will deploy Sisera, the commander of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his multitude at the River Kishon; and I will deliver him into your hand'?"8 And Barak said to her, "If you will go with me, then I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go!"9 So she said, "I will surely go with you; nevertheless there will be no glory for you in the journey you are taking, for the Lord will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman." Then Deborah arose and went with Barak to Kedesh. 10 And Barak called Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh; he went up with ten thousand men under his command, and Deborah went up with him.

a) How did Deborah think about her relationship with Barak? What caused this connection?

b) Was there any conflict in their relationship?

c) How was the frequent connection made between them?

- **Abigail & David 1 Samuel 25:32-42**

2 Then David said to Abigail: "Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, who sent you this day to meet me! 33 And blessed is your advice and blessed are you, because you have kept me this day from coming to bloodshed and from avenging myself with my own hand. 34 For indeed, as the Lord God of Israel lives, who has kept me back from hurting you, unless you had hurried and come to meet me, surely by morning light no males would have been left to Nabal!" 35 So David received from her hand what she had brought him, and said to her, "Go up in peace to your house. See, I have heeded your voice and respected your person."

36 Now Abigail went to Nabal, and there he was, holding a feast in his house, like the feast of a king. And Nabal's heart was merry within him, for he was very drunk; therefore, she told him nothing, little or much, until morning light. 37 So it was, in the morning, when the wine had gone from

Nabal, and his wife had told him these things, that his heart died within him, and he became like a stone. 38 Then it happened, after about ten days, that the Lord struck Nabal, and he died.

39 So when David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, "Blessed be the Lord, who has pleaded the cause of my reproach from the hand of Nabal and has kept His servant from evil! For the Lord has returned the wickedness of Nabal on his own head."

And David sent and proposed to Abigail, to take her as his wife. 40 When the servants of David had come to Abigail at Carmel, they spoke to her saying, "David sent us to you, to ask you to become his wife."

41 Then she arose, bowed her face to the earth, and said, "Here is your maidservant, a servant to wash the feet of the servants of my lord." 42 So Abigail rose in haste and rode on a donkey, attended by five of her maidens; and she followed the messengers of David, and became his wife

a) How did Abigail think about her relationship to David? What about Nabal? What caused this?

b) Was this a connection point or a conflict point in her relationship with Nabal? What about her relationship with David?

c) How frequent was her connection between Nabal? How frequent was her connection between David?

D. What was the final commitment point?

- **Bathsheba, Nathan & King David**

1 Kings 1:5-18, 28-31

1. Now King David was old, advanced in years; and they put covers on him, but he could not get warm [...] 5 Then Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, "I will be king"; and he prepared for himself chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him. 6 (And his father had not

rebuked him at any time by saying, "Why have you done so?" He was also very good-looking. His mother had borne him after Absalom.) 7 Then he conferred with Joab the son of Zeruiah and with Abiathar the priest, and they followed and helped Adonijah. 8 But Zadok the priest, Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, Nathan the prophet, Shimei, Rei, and the mighty men who belonged to David were not with Adonijah.

9 And Adonijah sacrificed sheep and oxen and fattened cattle by the stone of Zoheleth, which is by En Rogel; he also invited all his brothers, the king's sons, and all the men of Judah, the king's servants. 10 But he did not invite Nathan the prophet, Benaiah, the mighty men, or Solomon his brother.

11 So Nathan spoke to Bathsheba the mother of Solomon, saying, "Have you not heard that Adonijah the son of Haggith has become king, and David our lord does not know it? 12 Come, please, let me now give you advice, that you may save your own life and the life of your son Solomon. 13 Go immediately to King David and say to him, 'Did you not, my lord, O king, swear to your maidservant, saying, "Assuredly your son Solomon shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne"? Why then has Adonijah become king?' 14 Then, while you are still talking there with the king, I also will come in after you and confirm your words."

15 So Bathsheba went into the chamber to the king. (Now the king was very old, and Abishag the Shunammite was serving the king.) 16 And Bathsheba bowed and did homage to the king. Then the king said, "What is your wish?" 17 Then she said to him, "My lord, you swore by the Lord your God to your maidservant, saying, 'Assuredly Solomon your son shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne.' 18 So now, look! Adonijah has become king; and now, my lord the king, you do not know about it [...] 28 Then King David answered and said, "Call Bathsheba to me." So, she came into the king's presence and stood before the king. 29 And the king took an oath and said, "As the Lord lives, who has redeemed my life from

every distress, 30 just as I swore to you by the Lord God of Israel, saying, 'Assuredly Solomon your son shall be king after me, and he shall sit on my throne in my place,' so I certainly will do this day."31 Then Bathsheba bowed with her face to the earth, and paid homage to the king, and said, "Let my lord King David live forever!"

a) How did Bathsheba think about her relationship with her son Solomon? What about her relationship with King David and Nathan the prophet? How did Adonijah impact her? What caused this?

b) Was there any conflict?

c) How was the frequent were her connections made between these men in her life?

d) What were the commitment made in her life?

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Final Notes:

The End- Thank you for joining us for this series!