

GOD'S HEALING FOR WOUNDED RELATIONSHIPS

BIG IDEA

Satan wants to divide—because he knows how powerful we are when unified in Christ.

The Spirit wants us to love each other—because He knows how powerful we are when united in Christ.

OPENER

Think about the healthiest relationships in your life. To what do you attribute the health of the relationship?

SCRIPTURE

Read aloud in your group Ephesians 4:2-4 and 25-32.

QUESTIONS

1. Based on the scripture you just read, according to the Apostle Paul, what qualities should we exhibit in relationships as we seek to live Godly lives?
2. In Pastor John's sermon this weekend he taught us how Satan tries to destroy relationships. In our group this week we want to also look at God's plan to heal relationships. Review the full table below and discuss what you learn from each row (reading the scripture references out loud).

Satan wants me to:	Scripture References:	The Holy Spirit empowers me to:	Scripture References:
ignore obvious sin in myself and other believers, so we each get caught in his traps	1 Peter 5:8	gently confront sin in other believers; tough love from a friend is better than flattery and hypocrisy from an enemy	Galatians 6:1 Proverbs 27:6
open a foothold for him, by refusing to forgive	2 Corinthians 2:11	protect unity and forgive when wronged; go directly to the offender when wronged	Ephesians 4:3, 27, 32 1 Peter 4:8 Matthew 18:15-16a
slander other believers	Revelation 12:10 Galatians 5:15	speak highly of my brothers and sisters	Ephesians 4:29-30a
be easily offended and assume the worst	Colossians 3:13	do not be easily offended and assume the best about my brothers and sisters	1 Corinthians 13:5b-7

3. Which of Satan's ploys for destroying relationships are you most susceptible to?
4. There is the saying "opposites attract", but these differences can also be a cause of friction. What is an area in your own life that has been an irritation to someone you love?
5. Have you ever had a broken relationship that was restored? What steps had to be taken for restoration? Is there currently a broken relationship in your life that needs to be restored? What step can you take this week to help heal that relationship?
6. What one person or principal from the sermon has God put on your heart?

TAKEAWAY

- In the body of Christ, Satan wants to discourage, destroy and divide while the Holy Spirit wants to encourage, build up and unify.
- Every wound is an opportunity for healing or infection; bring your wounds to God so you can experience healing.
- Satan knows the appetites and desires of our hearts and tries to use those to trap us in sin.

REFERENCES

Job 1:9-11

John 10:10

2 Corinthians 5:17

Hebrews 12:14-15

DIGGING DEEPER

- In Proverbs 27:6, Solomon tells us, "Wounds from a sincere friend are better than many kisses (flattery) from an enemy." In other words, tough love spoken to me by a friend is better than flattery and hypocrisy from an enemy who is trying to hurt or deceive me. Have you ever been hurt/wounded when someone close to you talked to you about a known sin in your life? What was your initial response? Were you wounded? How did you receive the truth of their message? What did you learn from that experience?