

#5

RESPONSIBLE RELATIONSHIPS

A mature Christian is faithful in relationships. They honour marriage and are fully attentive to their family responsibilities. They value friendship and can be relied on as faithful and loving neighbours. They honour and care for the poor and vulnerable. They cultivate relational-awareness and strive to bring peace where there is tension and conflict.



CHARACTER TO CULTIVATE

AFFECTIONS



Q2 *In what ways are you experiencing...*

- LOVE FOR PEOPLE, valuing relationships above objects.
- DELIGHT IN GOD'S RIGHT ORDERING, for relationships.

Q3 *What false idols might be getting in the way?*

THOUGHTS



Q3 *How is God helping you to develop...*

- PURE MINDEDNESS, guarding thoughts, fleeing temptation.
- PEACEABLENESS, thinking graciously of others.

Q5 *What unhelpful thinking is tripping you up?*

PRAYERS



Q6 *Do you experience...*

- HOUSEHOLD PRAYER, praying together regularly.
- PRAYER FOR NEEDY, upholding the poor and vulnerable.

Q7 *What makes it hard for you to pray this way?*

BEHAVIOURS



Q7 *Are you seeing growth in these marks of godliness...*

- FAMILY FAITHFULNESS, honouring all family responsibilities.
- GODLY NEIGHBOURING, time spent befriending & serving.

Q9 *In what contexts is this hardest for you?*

TRAINING EXPERIENCES

5.1

READ & DISCUSS

Work through a recommended Bible study or book, planning accountability & action steps.

5.2

REFLECTION ON RESPONSIBLE RELATIONSHIPS

Listen to messages on [Responsible Relationships](#) and reflect on your own relational maturity.

5.3

REFLECTION ON LIFE STAGES

Listen to messages on the five [Life Stages](#) and use the exercises to reflect on your own responsibilities.

5.4



Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart.

1 PETER 1:22

CONVICTIONS TO DEVELOP

1. GOD	Trinity & Person of God	Divine Attributes	Evidence for God	Answering the Problem of Evil		
2. CREATION	Created Order & Goodness	Providence & Common Grace	Christianity & Science	Christianity & Conservation	Christianity & the Arts	Christianity & Industry
3. HUMANITY	Image of God	Gender and Sexuality	Work & Worship	Sin, Curse & Depravity	Christianity & Psychology	Christianity & Technology
4. JUDGMENT	Holiness & Divine Wrath	Satan & Demonic Power	Hell & Eternal Judgment	The Fate of the Lost	Powerlessness of Religion	
5. SCRIPTURE	Necessity of Revelation	Bible as God's Word	Interpretation via Gospel	OT Fulfilment in Christ	Bible Reliability	Power of the Gospel
6. CHRIST	Eternal Sonship	Full Humanity & Full Divinity	Perfect Obedience	Substitutionary Atonement	Implications of Resurrection	Historicity of Jesus
7. NEW CREATION	Reign & 2nd Coming	Heaven & Restoration	Kingdom of God	Tension of Now-Not-Yet	Ethics & Decision-making	
8. HOLY SPIRIT	Spirit of the Son	Indwelling of Believers	Gifting for Ministry	Error of Experientialism		
9. SALVATION	Knowing the Gospel	Predestination & New Birth	Repentance & Faith	Justification & Assurance	Sanctification & Ongoing Sin	Trials & Perseverance
10. CHURCH	Body of Christ & Household	Baptism & Membership	Communion & Unity	Ministry & Service	Local & Global Mission	

RESOURCES FOR DISCIPLESHIP

BIBLE STUDIES



Bible Books to Read and Carefully Meditate on
GENESIS 1-3, MATTHEW 5-7,
PROVERBS, ECCLESIASTES



The Beginning of Wisdom (Proverbs, Matthias Media)
Shows the way in to book of Proverbs, unlocking a wealth of wisdom for the right ordering of relationships.



The Search for Meaning (Ecclesiastes, Matthias Media)
An exploration of the riddles of life, revealing the patterns and structures of God's wisdom in creation.



The Man Who Makes a Difference (Manhood, M/Media)
A portrait of manhood shaped by the scriptures and the call of Jesus to lay down our lives in service of others.



Woman of God (Womanhood, Matthias Media)
Topical studies exploring a Biblical view of womanhood, inspired by the godly women of scripture.

BOOKS & ARTICLES



Six Steps to Encouragement (Gordon Cheng)
DVD based units, great for small groups, introducing the ministry of Christian encouragement, step by step.



The Heart of Singleness (Andrea Trevenna)
Biblical and pastoral wisdom on having a God honouring marriage.



This Momentary Marriage (John Piper)
Biblical and pastoral wisdom on having a God honouring marriage.



Gospel-Centred Family (Tim Chester)
A call away from the idols of middle class, to be families that truly serve the cause of Jesus.



Give Them Grace (Parenting, Fitzpatrick & Thompson)
An exhortation to gospel-shaped parenting, so that the grace of God pervades the home and heart.