



Building blocks for Good Relationships | Building Block 1 - Love

1 John 4: 7-10

We learned who we are: beloved children and heirs of God. God is love and that love is the core of our existence and our relationships. The essence of God as love is the most important ingredient in building good relationships. If we read the text carefully, it is a very special kind of love. This love gives, even when there are enough reasons not to. This love is the first to choose you! This love does not judge, it just accepts you as you are. This love is unconditional towards you.

Plane

An aircraft can only fly well and take people safely to their destination if there is good fuel in the tank. The aircraft is constructed and designed so that the engines can run when kerosene is used. It is actually the same with humans. We are made in the image of God and since God is love, people "walk" best when there is an environment where there is love. The first place to "refuel" this love is with God the Father. But we also receive that love in a loving environment.

Steward

All relationships that you will deal with in your life are created in the same way. They "walk" best through love. In our daily life we deal with many people. In some relationships there is responsibility such as between a married man and woman, parents and child, employer and employee, prince and people, or a shepherd and his congregation. In all those relationships, the fuel is love which is the basis of God's being. He gives that love to us, we receive it and then may pass it on.

How does the Kingdom of God come into our relationships?

Rom 12:10

Rom 13: 8

1 John 5: 1

Eph 5:28

Tit 2: 4

Luke 6:35

Receive first, then give

1 John 4: 11-21

Just as an airplane cannot fly without fuel, we cannot give God's love to others if we do not first receive that love ourselves. It is therefore important to open your heart to God and receive His love again and again. This makes your heart full of His love. Then you can share that love with others around you. Sharing that love is also a prerequisite for receiving the love of God. If we want to stay in His love, we must love each other.

Fight

In the early years of our marriage, it often happened that we did not understand each other properly. Often there were strong arguments. The result was distance between us and no longer wanting to talk. We went to bed angry, but we couldn't sleep, and God seemed far away. Even when we became Christians, this nasty habit continued. That is until people in the congregation taught us to love each other and to communicate better. In the following lessons you will find building blocks that help to pass that love on to each other better.





GROUP EXERCISE:



Ask everyone in the group what they think about themselves.

Write your name on a piece of paper

Then give these papers to others.

Everyone writes down why they love the person who wrote their name on the piece of paper.

What do you think is special about this person?

When everyone is ready, pass on the sheet to someone else.

Look at the name and write why you love this person.

Do this until the person has their own paper back.

Read it to each other.

Finally, pray together for a revelation of that love of God for each individual.



To Help You:

You can use the attachment to learn more about the languages of love and understand each other better.