

WEEK 1
LESSON OUTLINE



BIG IDEA

God-centered relationships begin with God-Centered lives

BIBLE

1 Corinthians 13:1–13

ABOUT THIS WEEK

Doing life on your own isn't the life that God designed you for. You were created to live and love in community. This week, we'll see how Paul describes godly love and community. Spoiler alert: It is centered around Jesus and His love for us. And the more we learn to center our relationships around Jesus, the healthier they will be.

WHAT?

The series “*On Your Own*” addresses the truth that life is not meant to be lived in isolation. While independence is often celebrated, God designed us for relationships—ones that bring us closer to Him and help us grow into who He’s called us to be. Relationships rooted in God are healthy, life-giving, and enduring because they focus on love, trust, and patience.

Over the next four weeks, the group will explore essential topics about friendships and relationships:

1. **God-centered relationships are the healthiest.**
2. **Friends can positively influence your faith journey.**
3. **God can guide us in choosing the right friends.**
4. **God can heal and restore broken friendships.**

These principles, grounded in scripture, will show how our relationships reflect God’s love and are strengthened when we live with Jesus at the center.

SO WHAT?

Our friendships and relationships aren’t just about having fun or fitting in—they’re opportunities to reflect Jesus. In 1 Corinthians 13, Paul reminded the church in Corinth that love is patient, kind, and selfless. Without love, even our best actions can be like clanging cymbals—loud, distracting, and empty. Healthy, God-centered relationships are built on love that honors God and each other.

This matters because relationships influence who we become. Whether it’s with friends, family, or significant others, how we love and treat one another shows what’s in our hearts. God wants us to build friendships that encourage growth, foster forgiveness, and point us back to Him. When we live with Jesus as our “glue,” relationships are stronger and more resilient, even when brokenness and sin threaten to pull us apart.

To start building God-centered relationships, we need to take practical steps:

1. **Spend time with God.** Just like we recognize a close friend's voice by spending time with them, we learn to hear God's voice through prayer and scripture. Try reading the Bible in new ways—alone, in groups, or in different settings.
2. **Examine your friendships.** Who in your life helps you grow closer to God? Are there relationships that need repair or wisdom? Ask God to help you choose friends who point you to Him and show His love.

Finally, take responsibility for how you treat others. Whether it's your family, friends, or someone you're dating, live in a way that reflects Jesus' love. Make it your goal this week to listen to God, encourage someone, or restore a relationship that needs healing. Healthy relationships begin with God-centered lives.