



DISCOVERING RELATIONAL WISDOM

SIX SKILLS THAT IMPROVE
EVERY RELATIONSHIP IN LIFE!

Personal Study Notes

Lesson 4

The Gospel Transforms Relationships

Student Information

Name:

Email:

Mailing Address:

Date Course Started:

Date Course Completed:

"To learn, read ... to understand, write ... to improve, practice ... to master, teach"

STUDY OVERVIEW AND REQUIREMENTS

- Please save these study notes as a Word document in a folder on your own computer or smartphone and answer the questions using your computer or smartphone rather than writing information in by hand. You may cut and paste or type text directly into this document, which will expand as you proceed.
- We encourage but do not require all students to answer at least **half of the questions** in each section of these Study Notes. If you choose to answer more questions, you will see greater improvement in your relational skills.
- If you are taking this course for academic or continuing education credit, for RW coaching or as part of your training for certification as an RW Instructor or RW Coach, you are **required to answer at least half of the questions** in each section of this document and submit a copy of your notes to your instructor or coach for evaluation at the end of the course.
- If you are **taking this course with a group of friends or co-workers**, you may print out a copy of your study notes and take them with you when your group meets to discuss what you are learning.
- You may **answer these questions with as much or as little detail as you choose**. One or two sentences is fine, but if you like to write more, go for it! If you are taking the course as part of a study group, however, keeping your answers relatively concise will make it easier to share them with your group.

RELATIONAL WISDOM IS AN OUTPOURING OF THE GOSPEL REFLECT AND APPLY 4A

1. Describe one or two insights you gained from this teaching.
2. How has the gospel impacted your self-awareness?
3. How has the gospel impacted your self-engagement?
4. How can a deeper understanding of the gospel impact your other-awareness and other-engagement?

"To learn, read ... to understand, write ... to improve, practice ... to master, teach"

THE GOSPEL PENETRATES BARRIERS

REFLECT AND APPLY 4B

1. Describe one or two insights about relationships you gained from this teaching.
 2. How did you feel when you heard Ken's story about bringing the gospel to his daughter? Why did you feel that way?
 3. In what situations are you most likely to bring the law to people rather than the gospel? Why do you think that is? How would you like to change?
 4. Should people always receive grace when they act sinfully? Are there times when people need to experience the full weight of the law?
-

WAYS TO BRING THE GOSPEL

REFLECT AND APPLY 4C

1. Describe one or two insights you gained from this teaching.
 2. Describe a time when you were discouraged or expected to be criticized and instead someone brought you words of kindness and encouragement ... perhaps tying them directly to the gospel itself. How did you feel and respond?
 3. List a few Scripture passages that are especially meaningful to you for communicating the gospel or some of its manifold implications.
-

RW IN ACTION: LES MISERABLES

REFLECT AND APPLY 4D

“To learn, read ... to understand, write ... to improve, practice ... to master, teach”

1. Describe one or two insights you gained from this video.
2. Have you ever returned grace for a wrong committed against you? What motivated you to do so? How did your actions help to pull down barriers between you and the other person?
3. Is there someone in your life who is in need of such grace? How could you show Christ’s love to that person? (see Luke 6:27-28 for some ideas!)
4. How did the Bishop’s actions demonstrate that when there has been a wrong, someone must always bear the cost? How is that truth displayed in the gospel? How did Jesus’ actions penetrate the barriers that our wrongs raise between us and God?

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

Reflect: Having read the supporting Scriptures for this less, how would you expand or elaborate on one or two of the key principles in this lesson? Feel free to refer to additional passages that support a particular principle.

DIGGING DEEPER

The following blog posts illustrate different ways to apply relational wisdom in daily life. We encourage you to read the posts that seem most relevant to your life at this time. If you are taking this course for **credit or certification**, you need to read at least **half** of these posts and answer the associated questions.

[**Breathe Grace**](#) (Describes how you can share the encouraging implications of the gospel in everyday conversations)

1. Think of someone you consistently enjoy talking with; how does that person “breathe grace” to you?
2. How can these spiritual disciplines make you more aware of God’s grace to you? Studying and mediating on his Word, praying to him, thanking him for his mercy and rejoicing in your salvation, delighting in his character and many kindnesses, worshiping him, partaking

“To learn, read ... to understand, write ... to improve, practice ... to master, teach”

of the Lord’s Supper, enjoying the fellowship of other believers. How can you practice them more productively?

3. Which three ways of breathing grace to others will you ask God to enable you to practice more consistently this week?

Destroy Your Enemies (How the gospel enables you to destroy your enemies)

1. Is there someone in your life who has deeply or repeatedly wronged or hurt you? How?
2. How do you feel toward that person? How have you been treating that person?
3. How does your treatment of that person compare to the way Jesus has treated you in spite of your countless sins against him? (Rom. 5:10; Col. 1:21-22)
4. How could you imitate Jesus today and take one small step toward making that person your friend rather than your enemy? (Eph. 5:1-2; Luke 6:27-28; Rom. 12:19-21)

Gentle Shepherding (How a pastor admitted his failure to be a loving shepherd and then used the gospel to lead a desperate young woman back to the church)

1. Describe a time when someone showed you an amazing amount of gentleness and compassion. How did that act reflect the love of Christ?
2. Unpack Isaiah 40:11 more fully. What picture or action does each major word or phrase describe to you? For example, what comes to mind when you read the words, “He gathers them in his arms and carries them close to his heart”?
3. Is there someone in your life who you can love and encourage this way today? Please do it.
4. Yes, I know that some people will take advantage of your gentleness, and that at times it will be necessary to firmly admonish others in order to encourage needed repentance (see chapters 7-

“To learn, read ... to understand, write ... to improve, practice ... to master, teach”

9 in *The Peacemaker*). But before you move to that level, it’s usually wise to ask God to work through your empathy, gentleness, and compassion. Try it and see what he can do.

Always Bring the Gospel (Practical examples of how to bring hope and encouragement through the gospel)

1. When you’re drawn into a difficult conversation, are you inclined to focus on the law or the gospel? How has that approach worked for you?
2. Which of the gospel-based promises above mean the most to you today? Why?
3. Read the story about how I shared the gospel comprehensively with my daughter when she was tangled up in sin. Be prepared to do the same when a similar opportunity arises.
4. Think of a person to whom you’d like to bring the gospel every day. Make a note to remind yourself and pray that God would help you to remember.
5. When you’re about to start a difficult conversation, resist the temptation to begin with a focus on human performance (or failure), and instead focus initially on what God has done for you and in you through Christ.

EVALUATE YOUR WORLDVIEW

We strongly encourage you to go through lesson 4 in our values-based course to evaluate how you have developed your worldview and discern whether you are consistently living out the values inherent to a Christian worldview. You can view this alternative lesson by going to [this page](#). (If you are taking this course for approval as an **RW Training Representative** or for certification as an **RW Instructor** or **RW Coach**, or if you plan to request **continuing education credit from a secular accrediting organization**, you are required to complete lessons 4 in the values-based course and submit copies of your study notes for evaluation at the end of the course.)