



## **The Power of the Other**

**Dr. Henry Cloud**

**Focus** Often when we pray, God uses other people to help answer our prayers. It is important to have meaningful relationships in our lives. There is power in deep, meaningful connection.

**Fun** If you were stranded alone on a mountain, how long do you think you would survive, and why?

**Review** Key Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 7:6; Ephesians 4:16

- **God sometimes uses others to answer our prayers.**  
In 2 Corinthians 7:6, Paul writes that God brings comfort and that He brought them comfort by bringing them Titus. God used another person to do His work of comforting. Often when we pray, God will use other people to bring about His will and answer those prayers.
- **There is power in relationships.**  
Dr. Cloud shared a story of a Navy SEAL in training who came to the end of all his physical limits, yet, when a fellow teammate encouraged him, he was able to go beyond what his own will and power were capable of. There is power in relational connection with other people.
- **Real connection is the best.**  
People often find themselves in one of four quadrants throughout their lives: no connection, bad connection, fake connection, or real connection. Some people will go back and forth between isolation, bad relationships, or fake connection where they attempt to cope or medicate themselves. The only

option that brings health and makes a positive difference is real, relational connection with others.

**\*Group Dynamics Idea\*** This message reminds us of the importance of relationships. Summer is a great time to be creative about ways to make those relational connections. One idea is to plan a day trip together. It may be a day at the lake, a short drive to a fun location, or something fun in your city. A day trip is a great way to get to know people in a relaxed environment with extended time to connect.

- Discuss**
1. Have you ever prayed about something and God used other people to answer your prayer? What was that experience like?
  2. Dr. Cloud discussed four relational quadrants. Why do you think people often choose the isolation quadrant?
  3. What does it require to live in the real connection quadrant with relationships? Why do people choose to not live there, or what do you think hinders them?
  4. What advice would you give to someone who wants to live in the real connection quadrant and have healthy relationships? How can they move out of isolation? Or out of bad connection? Or out of fake connection?
  5. When have you experienced the power of relational connection in your life? Have you ever been at a place where you were at the end of yourself and a relationship helped get you through? If so, please share.
  6. Take a few minutes for everyone to bow their heads and have some time listening to the Holy Spirit. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you? What relational quadrant are you in: isolation, bad connection, fake connection, or real connection? Ask God to show you where He wants you to focus on healthier relational connections.

- Take Home**
- As we conclude, remember the following:
- God will sometimes use others to answer your prayers.
  - There is power in relational connection.
  - Real, genuine relationships are what allow us to live at our best.

## **Prayer**

Heavenly Father, thank You for the power of relationships. Thank You for giving us relationship with You through the atoning work of Your Son, Jesus. Help us to have healthy relationships with others and to live in the place of real, genuine community. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**\*New Leader Tip\*** Be reminded as you lead that the goal of your group is to create real, genuine relationships. Never lose sight of the most important thing. Remind your group that real connection is the goal, and be intentional about creating a relational environment for your people to connect.